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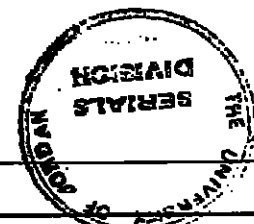


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20P

THE TIMES



No. 65,269

WEDNESDAY MAY 17 1995

Computer hitch delays aid for jobless

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Unemployed 'will feel the stick six months before they taste any carrot,' says Labour

delivery of services". Officials said that there had been delays in setting up computer equipment to ensure that Jobcentres had up to date information about where vacancies were available.

Lord Mackay added: "The Government's priority is to introduce the allowance successfully through the network of 1,200 Jobcentres throughout the country. This is a complex undertaking. It involves development of two substantial new computer systems and very large-scale training programmes."

Philip Bassett, page 29

A FLAGSHIP government project to help the unemployed find work was postponed last night amid protests that tougher benefit rules for the jobless will go ahead without delay.

In a move attacked by Labour as "inept and incompetent", the Government announced that introduction of key parts of the jobseeker's allowance will be delayed by six months to October next year because of problems with computerisation. However, under

the same legislation, a new unemployment benefit scheme reducing the period for which entitlements are not subject to means testing from a year to six months, will begin on time next April. The decision provoked angry Labour claims that the unemployed "will feel the stick six months before they taste any carrot."

The jobseeker's allowance will be based on proposals under which the Government promises a pack-

age of measures to help the unemployed provided they prove that they are actively seeking work. However, Lord Mackay of Ardsbreckish, the Social Security Minister, admitted yesterday that technical problems would delay the plan. It was the latest hitch to the Jobseekers Bill, originally hailed by ministers as a flagship piece of legislation to reduce long-term unemployment.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Shadow

Social Security Secretary said: "Today's retreat must be a major embarrassment for Peter Lilley and his colleagues. They ran into a storm of protest over the drafting of the Bill and now it appears that the systems required to implement it are simply not in place."

This month, peers forced the Government to rewrite part of the Bill, which they rejected as being too vague and as giving ministers too wide powers of interpretation.

They called for tighter definitions of "actively seeking work" and "unemployed", and called for clarification of the Bill's insistence that jobseekers should be suitably presented for work. Mr Lilley had confirmed that this would allow adjudicators to judge whether unemployed people were improperly dressed for interviews.

The Bill ran into difficulties during its Commons committee stage and it faced Tory criticism for

being "too harsh" on people on low incomes. Ian McCartney, Labour's Shadow Employment Minister, said that the delays proved that "the Government's handling of this Bill has been both inept and incompetent. The Government should admit that this ill-thought-out and vindictive Bill has been a mistake from start to finish."

Lord Mackay told peers that sticking to the planned date would have entailed "risks to the smooth

Pilot saves crew as he lands blazing plane in sea

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE pilot of an RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft saved the lives of his crew of six yesterday when he landed his blazing aircraft in the sea off the coast of Scotland.

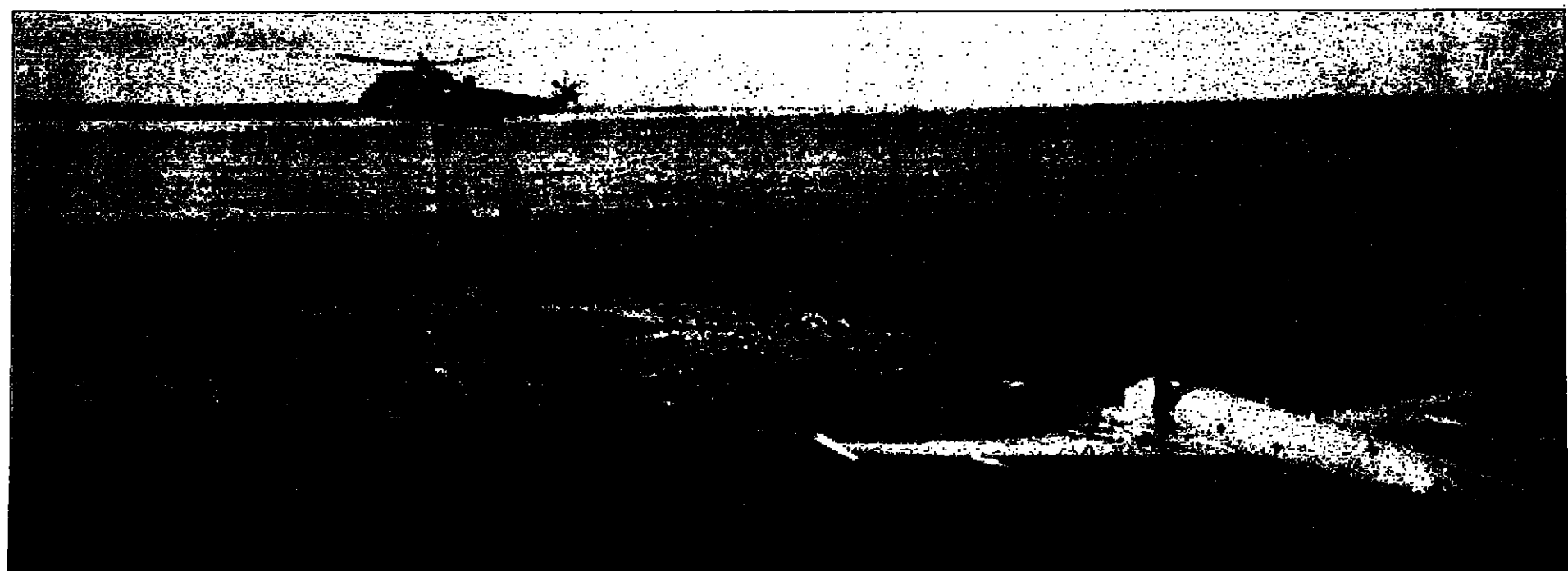
Flight Lieutenant Art Stacey, an experienced Nimrod pilot, fought with the controls to keep the plane from ditching nose-first. Last night he was praised for his "perfect landing" in the Moray Firth, off Lossiemouth in Moray. As the Nimrod hit the water with the two starboard engines on

fire, its plight was photographed from an RAF Sea King helicopter which had arrived on the scene after picking up a Mayday call.

The Nimrod R1, one of only three aircraft adapted for secret electronic eavesdropping, sank 20 minutes after hitting the water. The crew of seven escaped in a lifeboat. It was the first time that a Nimrod, which is based on the old Comet airframe, had had to ditch.

At RAF Kinloss, from where it had taken off, senior officers praised Flight Lieutenant Stacey's "fine feat of flying". Group Captain Bob Joseph, his base commander, said: "He did an outstanding job. He saved the lives of the crew." The pilot and one member of the crew were treated at a hospital in Elgin for minor injuries.

Robert Newlands, 25, an offshore worker from Lossiemouth, said: "I have a telescope at my window to watch



The Nimrod in the sea with its lifeboat and one of the rescue helicopters, and below, Flight Lieutenant Stacey (facing camera) and one of his crew being winched to safety

the planes come in. I saw the Nimrod with smoke coming from it. It was flying very low and there appeared to be flames from the centre section. Only seconds later, it dropped into the water, tail first, and then it flopped down on its belly. There was a helicopter near by.

"Within seconds, I saw the crew scrambling out of the top of the plane, a lifeboat being launched and the men jumping in. The helicopter was joined by a second, and they began picking up the men. It was well rehearsed and took just a couple of minutes. The

plane definitely was under control when it landed. Obviously the pilot knew what he was doing."

The Nimrod, which had taken off at 10.53am for its first air test since a big overhaul - it is 22 years old - developed mechanical difficulties after about 20 minutes, when it was 15 miles north of Lossiemouth over the Moray Firth.

The Sea King helicopter pilot who plucked the crew to safety spoke of his horror as he watched the burning aircraft plunge into the sea after the calm voice of the pilot gave the standard final call - "ditch-

ing, ditching, ditching". Squadron Leader Bob Somerville, who was training when alerted by the Mayday, said: "It took me five minutes to get him in sight and we were flying roughly towards each other. I was about three miles away and could see the flames streaming from the aircraft. There was quite a glow."

The pilot was very calm and obviously in control of his aircraft. I saw it plunge into the water at about 145mph. It was a remarkable piece of flying. I was alongside in two minutes. The aircraft was floating nicely and the crew

were already in their survival dinghy. They didn't say much, just that they were relieved that they were safe."

The aircraft, one of three Nimrod R1s from 51 Squadron based at Waddington, Lincolnshire, had been undergoing its overhaul at Kinloss, where the RAF has its main Nimrod servicing facility.

Replacing the crashed Nimrod with a new equivalent aircraft, such as the American Orion, with all its complex reconnaissance equipment, would cost about £75 million, according to Paul Beavor, of Jane's Sentinel publication.



Nurses vote for power to strike

The Royal College of Nurses, Britain's largest nursing union, voted overwhelmingly yesterday to abandon the no-strike policy which has been the college's defining principle for eight years.

By 488 votes to 3, delegates agreed to change its constitution to allow nurses to take limited industrial action - disrupting administration but not harming patients. The result was greeted with jubilant stamping and cheers... Page 2

Japanese arrest cult leader

Shoko Asahara, self-proclaimed guru of the Aum Shinrikyo religious cult allegedly responsible for the sarin gas attacks on the Tokyo underground, was arrested after dawn raids on its compound near Mt Fuji and at other centres... Page 9

Nolan rules out inquiry into party funding

By NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND PHILIP WEBSTER

LORD NOLAN's committee on standards in public life yesterday backed away from investigating the funding of political parties, at least until after the next election.

The climbdown came as John Major rejected state funding of political parties amid signs of Tory dismay over the impact of the Nolan committee report on MPs' outside earnings.

After a meeting of nearly three hours, Lord Nolan said the committee had taken into account the "intensely party political nature" of the issue. In the run-up to a general election it would not be possible "to review political funding in a non-partisan fashion".

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said he deeply regretted the decision, "especially as the committee accepted both that they have the power to investigate party political funding and that they should do so. The general election may well be two years away, which gives ample time for an investigation."

Lord Nolan denied having "caved in" to pressure from the Prime Minister and the Tories. "We never had any intention of widening the remit in the run-up to a general election," he said. He understood those who argued that party funding should be exam-

ined before the election, but said it would do more harm than good. "It would be too divisive," he said.

The final decision was unanimous, although at least four members of the committee, led by Peter Shore, the Labour MP, were said to have been in favour of an investigation.

Lord Nolan added that he would study carefully the views expressed in tomorrow's Commons debate before taking firm decisions on the committee's future.

As the full implications of last week's report have sunk in, senior Conservatives have become increasingly angry about its plans to force disclosure of their fees for consultancy work and for a quarantine period for ministers moving into the private sector.

Much of the privately voiced anger is being directed at Mr Major. "The penny is dropping," a senior MP said yesterday. "We are beginning to realise that this will change the nature of the Conservative parliamentary party and the sort of people who are prepared to stand to be Tory MPs. Some of my colleagues are beside themselves."

Simon Jenkins, and Diary, page 14
Letters, page 15

Scientists create the deepest freeze ever

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PHYSICISTS have plumbed the chilly depths of science to create the coldest temperature in the universe by cooling atoms to within 200 billionths of a degree of absolute zero (-273C), colder by far than outer space.

The record low, announced yesterday at a conference in Toronto, could lead to more accurate atomic clocks and a better understanding of such effects as superconductivity. It also takes physics a step closer to the new state of matter predicted by Albert Einstein and the Indian physicist Satyendra Bose 70 years ago.

The team responsible for the new low is led by Dr Eric Cornell and works in Boulder, Colorado. The team used a magnetic field to capture a large number of atoms of the metal rubidium. Since the temperature of the atoms is determined by their speed, the hottest were allowed to escape, leaving behind the cooler ones in a process analogous to cooling by evaporation.

Dr Richard Thompson of Imperial College, London, said such incredibly low temperatures were fascinating to physicists because "they push at the very limits of quantum mechanics."

Leading article, page 15

Bishop blames adultery on naughty genes

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE HEAD of the Anglican Church in Scotland is to make a plea tonight for greater understanding of adulterers. The Bishop of Edinburgh, the Most Rev Richard Holloway, believes that promiscuity is a natural state for humans and is calling on the Church to be more tolerant and understanding of adultery.

"The Church should not condemn affairs as sinful and wrong," he says. "It must accept that adultery is caused by our genetics and help people control their instincts so they can share loving, caring relationships."

Bishop Holloway, who has been married for 31 years, added: "We all get attracted to different people at different

times, and there is nothing wrong with that. It is what we do about it that matters."

His wife Jean said yesterday she had nothing to add to what her husband had said: "I have no views on the matter."

The bishop, who has often spoken out on controversial issues, is giving a series of four seminars on successive Wednesdays in St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh. Tonight's topic is: "What is sex for?"

Bishop Holloway, who has two daughters and a son, and has been Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland since 1992, says: "For the human race to survive, we must go out and sow our seeds. God knew that when he made us, so he has given us a built-in sex drive that I believe is designed for us to go out and propagate as widely as possible."

"But everyone knows the hurt a partner in a relationship suffers if their other half lets their genes run wild with someone else. So a human dilemma has grown from the need to balance our natural instincts with our want for a loving relationship."

"God has given us our promiscuous genes, so I think it would be wrong for the Church to condemn people who have followed their



Holloway: we need to go and sow our seeds

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Members pull their fingers out in show of playground derision

JABBING fingers is a growing craze in the Commons Chamber. It is MPs' equivalent of hanging your bare bottom out of a car window when passing supporters of a rival football club on the motorway. *Times* readers will be familiar with the habit.

The TV cameras are forced by House rules to concentrate on the MP speaking, and seldom catch the forest of index fingers around him or her, jabbing derisively at the members opposite. Though the general drift is clear, the

gesture is hard to translate with any precision. It always means what in the school playground we meant by "hah-nah-nah". "Yeah, yeah, yeah" (or just sticking tongues out); but it can also mean "gotcha!", "bull's-eye" or "stuff that up your backside". It can even mean "you should talk!" (or what the decreasing ranks of classicists in the House would convey by "tu quoque").

The index fingers were out in force at Prime Minister's questions yesterday. It started when Labour's Nigel Griffiths (Edinburgh South), a sparky Scot, took a crack at the Tories for resisting a Nolan committee inquiry into the funding of political parties. "What have they got to hide?" he jeered. Like early crocodiles, a few shy fingers emerged, stabbing tentatively, from the Opposition benches.

John Major came back confidently. People had a right to contribute anonymously to parties, he declared: what was dangerous was when influence was bought. The leap

across the logical chasm between the first assertion and the second took some daring. More Labour fingers joined the jab-in. And, persisted the PM, it was the Opposition who had been bought by their paymasters: the unions.

At this, every Tory who had a finger jabbed it, and some (I suspect Dover's David Shaw) jabbed both. The sight confronting Opposition MPs must have resembled what faced the South Wales Borderers at Rorke's Drift, as hundreds of chanting Zulu impi pierced the air with their spears. Instead of wearing leather skirts and shouting "woza! woza!", however, the Tories wear pin-stripe suits

and shout "hya-hya! hya-hya!". Unlike the Borderers, Labour had no guns to reply. But they had Tony Blair, whose Dispatch Box style has become a sort of verbal finger-jab on legs.

Mr Blair lined all the privatised utilities that had raised their prices. Electricity: up! (stab); water: up! (stab); gas: up! (stab). (here Mr Blair lowered his eyes and voice: he knows gas prices have gone down, and he can still blush) ... "complaints up!" (half-cock stab). Blair mumbled the word "complaints" but the government benches heard it. Our came the fingers. Tories howled in derision.

Up shot John Major. Blair was wrong, he said (Tory fingers at the ready); utility prices had fallen. Electricity prices were down (stab). Gas prices were down (stab). Water ... (here Mr Major raised his eyes and voice: he has forgotten how to blush) ... "is the cleanest in Europe". Now it was the Tories' turn to face the impi. The Opposition howled. Fingers which have long chafed at the leader's ban on the use of the comrades' clenched fist, converted joyfully now to a New Labour mass-finger-jab. Tory hands disappeared beneath Tory seats.

'We can disrupt the money supply — and the money supply is what matters'

Nurses' congress abandons no-strike policy

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL action in NHS hospitals moved a critical step closer yesterday when the Royal College of Nurses, the largest nursing union, voted overwhelmingly to abandon its no-strike policy.

In one of the most highly charged debates seen for years, representatives at the RCN's congress in Harrogate decided to jettison the policy of moderation that has been the college's defining principle for 80 years. By a margin of 488 to 3, delegates agreed a proposal to change the college's constitution to allow nurses to take limited industrial action — disrupting administration but not harming patients. The result was greeted with stamping and cheering by jubilant nurses.

The 300,000 members of the RCN will now be asked to vote on the decision and the result, which requires a two-thirds majority, will be presented to an emergency meeting of the college next month.

Nurses at the congress denounced ministers for "wrecking" the NHS and for imposing local pay with a derisory award. To prolonged applause, Pat Hughes, vice-chairman of the RCN's council, told the congress: "After 80 years, no government, no employer and no organisation

will ever again fool themselves or try to fool the public into thinking that nurses are a pushover or that our total commitment to patients leaves us open to exploitation. We won't stand for it."

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the college, said: "This government has pushed nurses too far, not only on pay but on their work in the NHS. This is no poker game. There is real concern and anger not for themselves but for what is really driving the NHS."

She said it was difficult to tell if nurses would take industrial action over the current pay award of 1 per cent nationally with local top-ups of up to 2 per cent. "I hope the Government will respond to today's vote by making sure nurses across the country get the full 3 per cent pay rise so we don't need to take industrial action."

Responding to the vote, Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said it was an illusion that limited industrial action would not harm patients. "Any sort of action by nurses would mean patients feel the pain. Simply put, if nurses do not fill in forms NHS trusts will not be able to treat patients and waiting times will rise."

Responding to the vote, Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said it was an illusion that limited industrial action would not harm patients. "Any sort of action by nurses would mean patients feel the pain. Simply put, if nurses do not fill in forms NHS trusts will not be able to treat patients and waiting times will rise."



Bob Aberberly, head of health at Unison, which represents 200,000 nurses, said the decision meant the two unions would stand "shoulder to shoulder" in their campaign for a 3 per cent rise for all nurses. Unison is consulting its own members on industrial action and is to announce the result next week.

The congress called for league tables of "macho managers" to be drawn up by the college. The tables would rank NHS trusts according to the number of disputes and grievances, industrial tribunals and other measures of poor industrial relations.

Mike Evans, of Torbay, cited examples of a nurse with 30 years' experience who was escorted from hospital grounds by security guards and another with 19 years' experience sent home without being given a reason. "There must be many here who have been victims of bully-boy tactics," he said. "League tables would ensure that what happens is made known."

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Brown promises war on inflation

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GORDON BROWN will today underline Labour's determination to restrict inflation by announcing a clampdown on public spending and plans to strengthen the powers of the Bank of England.

In a speech to industry and business leaders in London, the Shadow Chancellor will promise to "wage war on inflation" in an attempt to reassure the markets over Labour's economic policy.

"Inflation is the enemy of the poor, the pensioners and the middle-income family," Mr Brown will say. "It destroys savings and undermines long-term investments and jobs. It also creates instability and harms those least able to

use sophisticated tax instruments to protect them." Under Labour's plans the Bank would have new criteria to govern interest rate decisions. There would be a new policymaking committee with representatives from industry and the regions, making decisions more objective.

In an implicit attack on the present relationship between the Government and the Bank of England, he will also criticise the present policy of setting interest rates as "unstable and unsustainable". Mr Brown will disclose that Labour would set a medium-term strategy aimed at creating high sustainable growth by combining an inflation target with a medium-term growth rate.

He will also propose changes to make the present system less personalised, and less of a "Ken and Eddie show" — referring to the publicity after the last meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England when they disagreed on interest rates. A Labour government would act to make the meetings more transparent and accountable.

The Shadow Chancellor will also highlight Labour's drive to restrict public spending by ensuring that extra funding is only sanctioned where it is cost-effective. All government expenditure would be subject to rolling reviews to ensure that it was delivering value for money. Labour would insist that government borrowing did not exceed public investment over an economic cycle.

Politics, page 8

Privatised train services 'could be cut by quarter'

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

INTERCITY services between London and the rest of Britain could be cut by up to 25 per cent under privatisation if new operators run into financial difficulties, it was disclosed yesterday.

Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, announced minimum service frequencies on lines to the Midlands and the North East, many of which are below existing BR timetable levels. He also confirmed that minimum standards for fast services to South Wales and the West Country, originally announced in February, will be cut by 20 per cent.

Mr Salmon, who is overseeing the auction of passenger rail services, insisted the cuts would give private sector companies greater flexibility. But Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the reduced passenger service requirements (PSRs) would lead to fewer, less reliable and less punctual train services after privatisation. "This is the truth that the Government's half-baked fares announcement on Monday was designed to conceal."

Adultery

Continued from page 1
instincts. What I hope my lectures will do is help people understand why they have this polygamous instinct deep in their subconscious, but show them that it is very antisocial to let their instincts rip.

The Church should not condemn affairs as sinful and wrong. The Church must accept adultery is caused by our genetics and help people control their instincts so they can share loving, caring relationships.

The bishop says he is not advocating "a new Christian polygamy", but would like to see the Church show greater understanding and change its attitudes.

A spokeswoman for the Episcopal Church stressed that the bishop was speaking in a personal capacity. His other seminars, held jointly with the Church of Scotland, are: Sex and Christianity; Same-Sex Relations and Marriage; and the Future of Marriage.

The Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland said yesterday they were sticking by the Ten Commandments when it came to adultery.

On the East Coast main line, the private sector operator will be able to cut fast services by up to a third. The PSR for the line sets a legal minimum of 17 fast services between King's Cross and Newcastle, compared with the current 26. There will also be a requirement to run only 13 trains a day to Edinburgh, compared with 15 now.

On the Midland Main Line, which connects St Pancras with the East Midlands and Yorkshire, the minimum requirement for fast services to Sheffield is also reduced by two to 14. North of the border most existing ScotRail services have been guaranteed, with

the high-profile exception of the sleeper to Fort William and Anglo-Scottish Motorail services.

PSRs for seven of the 25 franchises being sold have now been unveiled. Three — Great Western, LTS Rail and South West trains — have been announced in draft form only and await consultation.

The Government is committed to selling 51 per cent of the BR passenger network by next April.

Peter Riddell, page 8

Howard unveils defence disclosure plan

By RICHARD FORD
AND STEWART TENDLER

THE Government unveiled another shake-up of the criminal justice system yesterday, aimed at preventing defence "ambushes" of the prosecution in court.

As part of a process announced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, the defence will for the first time have to provide an outline of its case to the Crown before a trial starts. The Crown will be able to draw an adverse inference at the trial on any defendant who fails to provide it. The amount of material the

prosecution must provide to defence lawyers is to be limited.

The proposals aim to protect from disclosure to defendants sensitive information such as the names of informants and details of intelligence operations. They envisage a three-stage process before the opening of a trial.

The prosecution will have a duty to provide defence lawyers with the material on which it bases its case, plus unused material which might undermine the Crown's case. After receiving this the defence would, for the first time, be required to provide the Crown with

particulars of its case. The defence would also have to give details of witnesses upon whom it relied. At the third stage the prosecution will disclose to the defence any unused material which might assist a particular line of argument the defence intended to use. Mr Howard plans to draw up legislation for the next session of Parliament.

The Bar Council said the reforms were "driven too much by the demands of the police" and were "tipping the scales" against the accused.

Leading article, page 15

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Women lawyers get to wear the trousers

By FRANCES GIBB and MICHAEL HORSNELL

NOT since the admission of women to the Bar in 1922 has there been such a stir in legal circles. Women advocates have been given permission by the Lord Chief Justice to wear trousers in court.

In a move that signals the end of another hallmark of the Bar as a 19th-century male bastion, Lord Taylor of Gosforth has given his blessing to Peter Goldsmith, QC, Bar Council chairman, for a change in dress rules for female barristers and solicitors. He says that traditional court dress does not require women to wear skirts.

Mr Goldsmith wrote to him shortly before Easter requesting clarification after a long campaign by younger members of the Association of Women Barristers for dress equality. The change marks another step in the advancement of women in the courts. Last year there were 629 at the Bar compared with 816 men. Only 20 years ago a mere 77 women were to be found.

The news was met with delight in the courts yesterday where judges, resplendent in medieval attire, often vent their spleen upon advocates deemed to be inappropriately dressed. Women throughout the Inns of Court welcomed the news and admitted that they had been reluctant to wear trousers because of the reaction it might have provoked on the Bench.

Emma Akwudike, 26, junior tenant in the chambers of Rock Tansey, QC, said: "It's fabulous news. We have to move with the times and it does not make your advocacy any less competent if you are wearing trousers. We can still look formal and well-dressed."

Her colleague Arlette Piercy, 29, recalls being turned away from an Inn of Court dinner for wearing a trouser suit. "This is long overdue and very welcome. Trousers are more practical and more comfortable. I am sure I speak for most of my sisters," she said.

Catherine Nicholas, of 4 Brick Court, said that dress requirements had slowly been relaxing, with more navy and brown coming in. "People thought you had to have a special dispensation to wear trousers — such as if you had injured your legs, or on religious grounds."

But generally it was not done, she said. "I think the main reason was that it was feared it might not go down well with the tribunal — or even with the client. If the judge is a little taken aback it might rub off on your client."

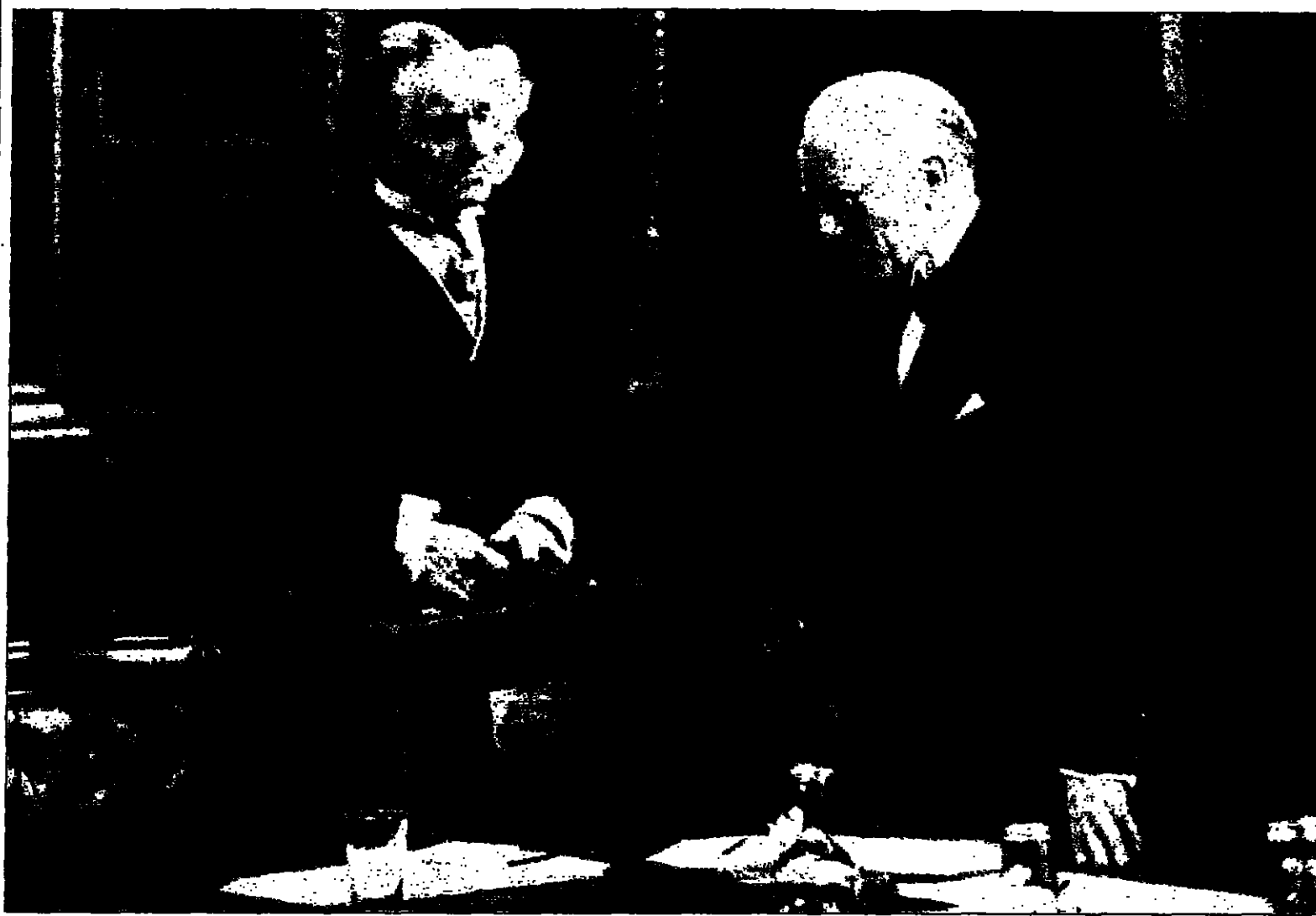
The news was particularly welcome to Anne Gibberd, of 4 Brick Court, probably the only woman barrister known regularly to wear trousers. She says she had done so for the past four years — but had risked incurring the disapproval of the Bench.

"It was only once mentioned to me, by a woman district judge and in the nicest possible way. Wearing trousers makes sense; often we are rushing about, carrying files, and going into grubby places like prison cells — skirts are just not the most suitable thing."

Helena Kennedy, QC, was among the first to adopt knee breeches instead of the traditional black skirt at the ceremony when she took silk. Cherie Booth, QC, did likewise. Last year the legal outfitters, Ede and Ravenscroft in Chancery Lane, sent a strong signal to judges when they included trouser suits in a new ladies' collection. Mr Goldsmith said: "Clarification was needed on the issue. It is not of major significance but it is a sensible move."

Helen Khan, of 2 King's Bench, said: "It's excellent news. If we can wear smart businesslike trousers — suits what is the problem? Underwigs and gowns, they are scarcely noticeable anyway. It has to be a step forward for the equality of women at the Bar."

Sombre-looking actor who longed to let his hair down



The 1960 series *The Forsyte Saga* made Eric Porter, left, a household face. He was a gifted classical actor and RSC founder member

By JOE JOSEPH

ERIC PORTER, who vaulted to high street fame when he played the half-loved, half-hated patriarch, Soames, in *The Forsyte Saga*, has died of cancer. He was 67.

Although he was a gifted classical actor and a founder member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Porter was an admitted but a largely unrecognised face until his role in the 1960s television series made him a household name. After the infamous scene in which Soames rapes his wife, Irene, played by Nyree Dawn Porter, it was a name missed by many viewers through disapproving lips.

The Forsyte Saga, the last of the great BBC costume dramas to be filmed in black and white, transfixed audiences for 26 Sunday nights in 1967 — bringing posh soap-style sex to the screen, but sanitising it by adapting a John Galsworthy novel for

Eric Porter, patriarch of Forsytes, dies at 67

the script and filming it all in sedate monochrome.

When this cocktail of emotional jolts and narrative cliffhangers was smartly and instantly repeated on BBC1, the series sucked in audiences of 18.5 million.

It is only because of its antique black-and-white look that the series is now rarely repeated, in spite of wild acclaim at home and abroad: 160 million have seen the series across the world. Even the Soviet Union bought it. Porter, a reclusive man who was unmarried — and who once described his private life as "negligible, only an annex to my professional life" — was admitted to the Royal Free

Hospital in London on April 10, fighting cancer. He died there on Monday night, surrounded by friends.

Jonathan Altaras, his agent, said: "It is very comforting to know he wasn't alone. He had great friends who opted to stay with him at the hospital for the last week and were very supportive."

Nyree Dawn Porter said: "It was a joy and a privilege to work with him and to know him. He will be sorely missed both by the industry and by myself."

Sir Peter Hall, who cast him as Malvolio in *Twelfth Night*, called Porter an "immaculate performer and an actor's actor. He said he

brought to his role "a wit and mastery of the text which was a beacon for the rest of the company. Eric Porter was that rarity — an actor with a superb technique and consummate good taste. He was also a friend whom I shall greatly miss."

His award-winning portrayal of the tortured and possessive Soames in *The Forsyte Saga* may have been Porter's best-known role, but he was rarely short of classy work. His strikingly gaunt face starred out at cinegoers in *The Day Of The Jackal* and *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. He also appeared on television as the Russian aristocrat Count Bronowsky in *The*

Jewel In The Crown. He was back on the box recently in a new production of a 1960s Dennis Potter play, *Message For Posterity*.

In 1988 he won the *Evening Standard* best-actor award for his role as Big Daddy in Tennessee Williams's *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at the National Theatre. The following year he was King Lear at the Old Vic.

Although he wore it often, sombreness was not always Porter's favourite suit. Just as funny men yearn to be taken seriously, Porter ached to let his hair down and to let his forbidding features crack into a slapstick smile.

As he prepared to take on the unenviable role of Neville Chamberlain in the TV series *Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years* 15 years ago, he moaned: "Just for once I'd like to drop my knickers and make people laugh."

Obituary, page 17

Deportees gagged 'to stop them biting'

By RICHARD DUCE

GAGGING of violent deportees with adhesive tape was no secret among the police unit alleged to have suffocated Joy Gardner, a Jamaican illegal immigrant, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

Officers of the Alien Deportation Group had used tape since the late 1970s to stop deportees biting them because they were afraid of contracting Aids and hepatitis B. They received no formal training in how to gag people but learnt "on the job", a former constable with the unit told the court.

William Johnson, now retired, said the tape was used for gagging when officers believed their safety and that of others was under threat. Deportees were usually gagged if they began shouting on an aeroplane out of Britain, but it was not uncommon at other times.

The prosecution claims that three ADG officers had acted as a law unto themselves in gagging Mrs Gardner at home in Hornsey, north London, when standing instructions to the unit made it clear the use of tape should be limited to emergency incidents on aircraft.

Mrs Gardner, 40, died three days after she had been gagged with 13ft of adhesive tape by ADG officers who had instructions to escort her to Gatwick for a flight to Jamaica. Detective Sergeant Linda Evans, 42, who was on secondment to the ADG, PC Colin Whitty, 48, and PC John Burrell, 43, all deny manslaughter.

It is alleged that after trying to bite PC Burrell, Mrs Gardner was gagged with tape by PC Whitty. Mrs Gardner, who was 5ft 6in tall and weighed 13½ stone, had first been secured by a waist-restraining belt which had built-in handcuffs.

Mr Johnson, who received a £50 police award and letter of commendation for designing the restraining belt, said that when he worked for the ADG he had often been assaulted and once had two ribs broken. Deportees might strip naked or throw excrement at officers. The trial continues.

Rare plant fitted with security chip

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH AFRICAN botanists have gone to elaborate lengths to safeguard an extremely rare plant, which they will be exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show in London next week.

The palm-like plant, *Encephalartos woodii*, has had a silicon chip fitted into its trunk so that it can be tracked if it is stolen. Only 38 examples of the plant, which belongs to the cycad group, exist in the world and it is extinct in the wild.

Cycads are thought to have originated about 300 million years ago, long before flowering plants. Barry Louw, of the South African National Botanical Institute in Cape Town,

said: "It is a highly sought-after collector's item, rather strange-looking, with a bunch of leaves at the end of the plant. It grows painfully slowly, and that is one reason why it is endangered. A one-metre-high plant like the one that is going on show would be about 100 years old."

John Donaldson, a cycad specialist, said that a fifth of all cycads in the world were found in South Africa. "Sadly, South Africa shares with Mexico, and more recently China, a reputation for the destruction of the cycad habitat and a massive illegal trade in wild-collected plants that has devastated cycad populations," he said.

Stalker 'real target of prosecution'

By KATE ALDERSON

A MILLIONAIRE businessman was investigated with a "fanaticism usually reserved for mass murderers" in an attempt to discredit him and his friend John Stalker, a court was told yesterday.

Sir James Anderton, former Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, wanted to justify Mr Stalker's removal from an inquiry into the RUC's alleged shoot-to-kill policy. Sir James believed justification would be provided by the conviction of Kevin Taylor.

Mr Taylor's counsel told the High Court in Liverpool that police officers had conspired to convict him so as to discredit Mr Stalker, then his friend and deputy chief constable of

Greater Manchester. Mr Taylor, 63, of Accrington, who lives on sickness benefit, is suing Sir James for malicious prosecution.

Mr Taylor's action followed the collapse in 1990 of a trial in which he was accused of defrauding the Co-Operative Bank. Roger Farley, his QC, told Mr Justice Owen that a reason had to be found to remove Mr Stalker from the inquiry in 1986 to avoid political embarrassment.

Sir James wanted to "get Taylor" but had no evidence, and asked the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute. Mr Farley said. Mr Stalker is expected to give evidence today.

Greer quits paper in censorship row

By LUCY BERRINGTON

THE feminist champion Germaine Greer has resigned in disgust after *The Guardian* refused to publish one of her columns. The paper took the decision to censor her work after claiming that her article had become an attack on fellow feminist and *Guardian* stablemate Suzanne Moore.

The column was pulled at the eleventh hour from Monday's edition of the newspaper after negotiations between Greer and the features editor failed to reach a compromise. The column was commissioned as a discussion on fertility and gynaecological surgery but turned into a personal attack on Ms Moore, who Ms Greer described as inarticulate, disloyal and a "lipstick feminist".

The row was sparked by an untrue allegation in *Hippie Hippie Shake*, a book by Richard Neville, that Greer had undergone a hysterectomy as a young woman, and undermining her about the menopause. Ms Moore was quoted in the London Evening Standard on May 5 saying a "major statement". Ms Moore said last night

that she had been misquoted: "I said I had no idea whether she'd had a hysterectomy and I'd be very surprised if she had. Then I said if a woman chooses to have a hysterectomy that would be a major statement. They skewed it to look as though I was commenting on her."

She added: "People are trying to set up a feud and I'm just not interested." Ms Greer said last night that Ms Moore should have known better and accused *The Guardian* of distributing the text around Fleet Street.



Greer: article turned into personal attack

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Labour's proposal for earlier retirement and greater monitoring of judiciary finds limited support

Judges say league tables threaten independence

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR legal figures expressed concern yesterday at Labour Party plans to publish what could amount to a league table of judges.

There was universal condemnation of the proposal for complaints against judges — over an insensitive remark, for example — to be passed to a judicial appointments commission and made public, with the judge named. The reaction was more mixed to proposals for greater monitoring of judges' performance and for a judicial retirement age of 65.

Lords Denning and Donaldson, both former Masters of the Rolls, said the proposals would threaten the independence of the judiciary from the executive.

Lord Denning said: "I am staggered by these proposals. The independence of the judges is a cardinal principle which is fundamental to our legal process and proceedings and our constitution. We ought not to let anything take place which imperils it. Judges should be free to state their judgments without being called to book by newspapers or politicians."

— Lord Denning



"Judges should be free to state their judgments without being called to book by newspapers or politicians"

— Lord Denning



"If you come up before a judge against whom there has been a list of complaints, will you say you want another judge?"

— Lord Donaldson



"Many of the best judgments by judges such as Lord Reid and Lord Denning were well after they had reached 65"

— Lord Lane



"League tables are totally absurd. Judges sit on completely different kinds of cases. You cannot equate one with another"

— Lord Ackner



"We would end up with the majority of judges having very limited experience compared with those we have today"

— Sir Frederick Lawton



"Judges are playing a very, very important role protecting the individual powers of the State as well as making sure individuals are protected generally. One has to have a degree of confidence that judges are able to act in a way which does not undermine that without Big Brother looking over their shoulder."

— Peter Goldsmith

monitoring of the judiciary drew a mixed reaction from the professional legal bodies. Peter Goldsmith, QC, said it depended on what "monitoring" meant.

He added: "Judges are playing a very, very important role protecting the individual from the powers of the State as well as making sure individuals are protected generally. One has to have a degree of confidence that judges are able to act in a way which does not undermine that without Big Brother looking over their shoulder."

Charles Elly, president of the Law Society, said he would welcome increased monitoring of judges as had been recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice.

Both bodies, however, rejected the proposal that they should submit to further scrutiny through a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. They had already undergone thorough scrutiny under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 that had set up machinery to oversee their workings.

Age old wisdom, page 14

called to book by newspapers or politicians."

Lord Donaldson of Lynton said that any such league table or public list of complaints could lead to judge shopping. "If these lists are published and you come up before a judge against whom there has been a string of complaints, what will you say, that you want another judge?"

He said that if judges were looking over their shoulders

all the time, it could imperil their objectivity. The key was that judges could not be dismissed and that they were "unaccountable to anyone other than their conscience."

If action was needed against a judge, it should be dealt with through the Lord Chief Justice and "peer pressure", not a judicial appointments and training commission.

Both Lords Denning and Donaldson, as well as Lord

Lane, the former Lord Chief Justice, and Sir Frederick Lawton, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, criticised the proposal for judges to retire at 65.

Lord Lane said: "Many of the best judgments by judges such as Lord Reid and Lord Denning were well after they had reached that age."

The judges said that the move would also bring recruitment problems for the Bench now that judges have to

sit for 20 years before qualifying for a full pension.

Sir Frederick said fewer people would come forward for the Bench and "we would end up with the majority of judges having very limited experience compared with those we have today".

He added that he was "horrified" about judges being named in a list of complaints. It could be the final straw which could deter them from applying.

"They sacrifice a deal in income in going to the bench. And then if there is the prospect of being hauled through the newspapers because they are on a list... they are not going to do it."

A cautious note of welcome to the earlier retirement age came from Lord Ackner, a law lord who said it was acceptable provided it carried the proviso that judges could continue sitting beyond that age if

they were required to do so, as in Canada, and were retained on full or two-thirds salary.

But he criticised as "totally absurd" the idea of a league table. "Judges sit on completely different kinds of cases. Criminal matters such as rape and child abuse are completely different from winding up petitions in the Chancery division. You cannot equate one with another."

The proposals for increased

Protesters picket runway inquiry

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

CHANTING, banner-waving demonstrators greeted lawyers and witnesses at the opening yesterday of the planning inquiry into the proposed £1 billion fifth terminal at Heathrow.

Protesters lined up outside Heathrow's Ramada Hotel, where Roy Vandermeer, QC, a deputy High Court judge, started the public inquiry, which is expected to take evidence from more than 2,000 witnesses and cost up to £10 million by the time it is finished in two years.

Those in favour of the development said that the airport was vital both for the local and the national economy and that not building it would be "deeply damaging to the UK and the air transport industry".

Guy Roots, QC, representing BAA, the owner and operator of Heathrow, told the inquiry that it was one of the most important travel centres in the world. "Its premier position is increasingly threatened by the aspirations of foreign airports such as Paris, Amsterdam and Frankfurt."

He was backed by Michael Fitzgerald, QC, for British Airways, who claimed that the

site for the fifth terminal — on a sewage farm between the two runways — was "a natural choice". Any adverse environmental impact was outweighed by the economic benefits it would bring, he argued.

Their views were opposed by Dermot Cox, chairman of the Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise, whose 7,000 members claim that further development of the airport would bring more misery to its neighbours. "We have suffered the noise, the air pollution and the traffic of the fourth terminal proposed in 1983, but still the air transport industry comes back for more."

"Those of us who live in London say that to remain a world city we must ensure that it remains a pleasant and civilised city in which to live and work. The time has come to say Heathrow has reached maturity."

The short opening statements will be followed by detailed statistical arguments and cross-examination of witnesses. The Government has made clear it will not take sides and that it will be up to Judge Vandermeer to make a recommendation.

Christian TV station to start next year

By RUTH GLEDHILL AND ALEXANDRA FREAN

BRITAIN'S first Christian cable television station is to be launched next spring, with the backing of leading members of the Church of England and other churches. The announcement yesterday came weeks before Britain's first Christian radio station goes on air in London next month.

Organisers hope the channel, Ark2, which has a £1 million start-up budget and will cost £8 million a year to run, will be carried by 95 per cent of national cable operators. It will be financed by subscriptions, advertising and sponsorship.

The 12 hours of programmes a day will include school assembly and religious education programmes, chat shows, phone-ins and music and arts programmes. Presenters will include the journalists Libby Purves, Sally Magnusson and Auberon Waugh.

The Right Rev Nigel

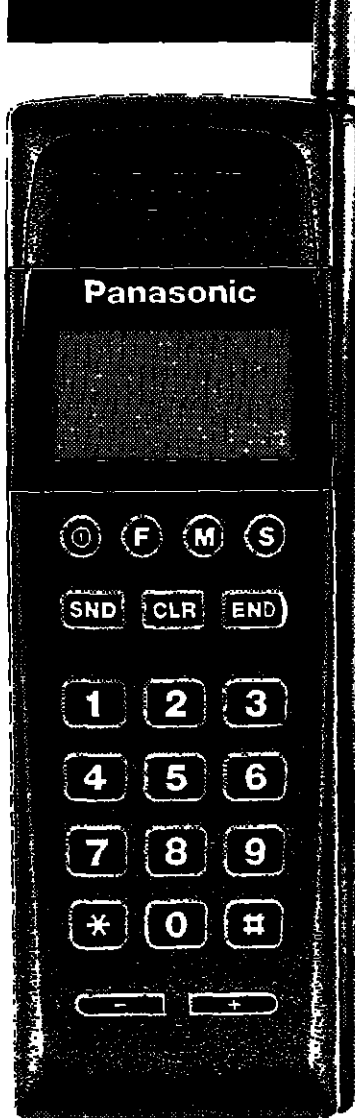
McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and chairman of the Church of England communications committee, said: "I believe that the Christian faith needs to use every available means of communication." The channel would not be offering American-style televangelism.

Britain's first Christian radio station, Premier, will go on air in London on June 10, broadcasting news, current affairs and music. Premier intends to generate most of its planned £1.7 million annual income through advertising and sponsorship.

The country's first 24-hour live television channel, Live TV, will be launched on cable networks on June 12. The station, which is owned by Mirror Group, publishers of the *Daily Mirror*, will offer entertainment, information and lifestyle programmes.

Media, page 34

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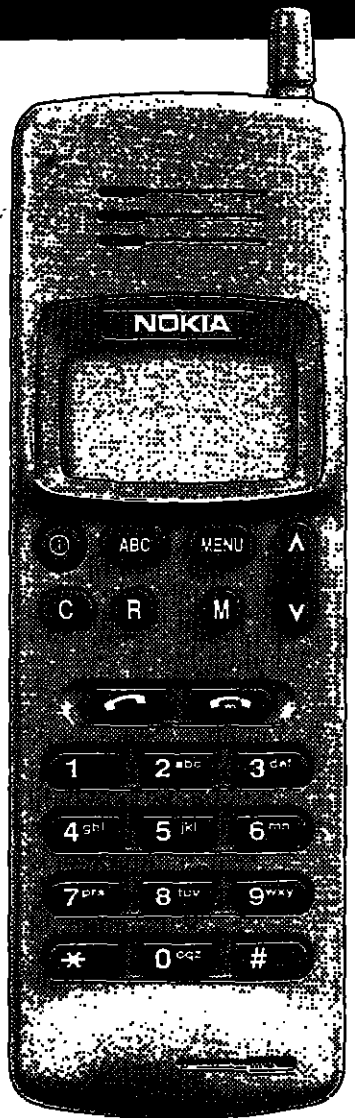
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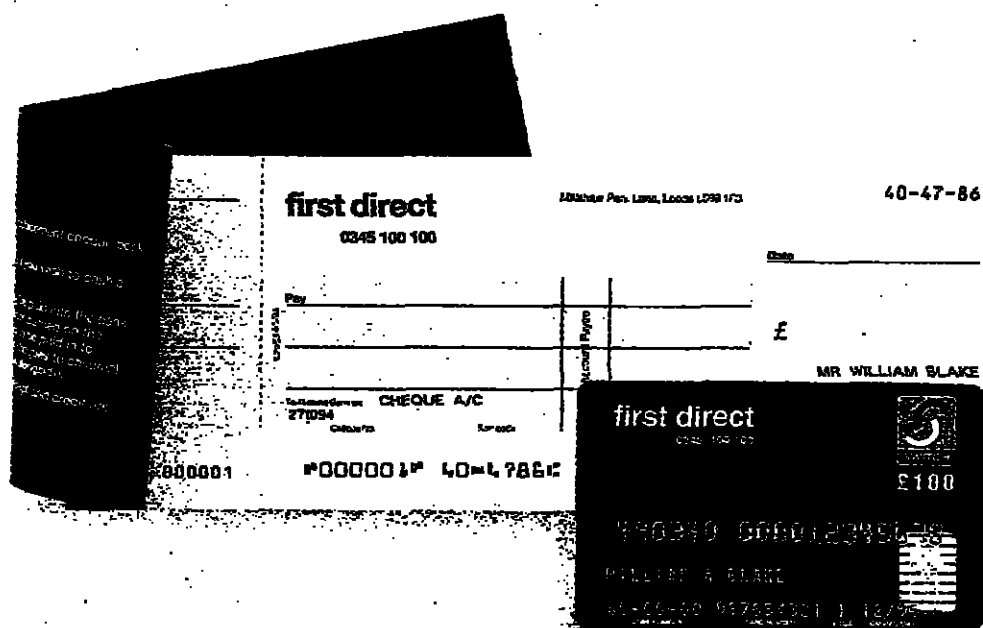
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Big Friendly Giant ousts classics from children's bookshelves

By ALAN HAMILTON

JOHN MAJOR'S favourite childhood reading was Billy Bunter, while the young Margaret Thatcher preferred Kipling's *Just So Stories*. Had they been children today, they would almost certainly have met on the common ground of Roald Dahl.

In a survey of the favourite books of 4,000 children, conducted by the Library Association, Dahl was by far the most popular author with his titles taking the top five places. Frank Richards's *Owl of the Remove* and Kipling's *Elephant's Child* have been usurped by the Big Friendly Giant and Charlie of the chocolate factory.

Dahl's most popular work, according to the survey, is *The Witches*, which was made

into a film starring Anjelica Huston. This was closely followed by *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, and *George's Marvellous Medicine*. The children's sixth most popular book was *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*, by Sue Townsend.

The children were asked to discover what their parents' favourite childhood reading had been and the results uncovered a chasm between the generations. The only book to bridge the years, and to be anywhere near as popular now as then, was Anna Sewall's *Black Beauty*, named by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother as her favourite childhood book.

The parents questioned appeared to have led a sheltered existence, with Enid Blyton



Black Beauty was admired by children and parents. Roald Dahl and Sue Townsend are today's favourites

the clear favourite followed by Louisa M. Alcott's *Little Women*. Many, however, including the television presenter and novelist Melvyn Bragg, gave their vote to Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, while Tolkien's *The Hobbit*

was popular with the nearer end of the older generation. Will Carling, the England rugby captain and one of several famous names approached by the children, named it as his favourite childhood book. To be fair to

the Prime Minister, his reading during his early years was not confined to tales of a prematurely obese schoolboy at Greyfriars. He named three other favourites: Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Thomas Costain's *Below*

the Salt and the tales of Robin Hood.

Being obliged as part of the exercise to read and review their parents' choice produced a surprising liking among today's children for the classics, once they had discov-

ered them. Nearly half of those who took part said they loved their parents' choice and would recommend it. Only 6 per cent of the children positively hated what their parents had read.

Enid Blyton was far from popular with today's young readers. Trevor Smith, 14, of Great Yarmouth, found the Secret Seven sexist. "When Janet said she would hold a Secret Seven meeting, her brother Peter said that he would chuck her out of the Secret Seven."

But Blyton still has her fans. Barbara Goster, 12, of Lincoln, summed up *Five Go Camping Together*: "I would recommend this book to anybody over eight. It has no swearing or violence." Michael Ball, 10, of Bury, Greater Manchester, gave short shrift

to his mother's choice of James Herriot's *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet*: "I really don't know why my mum enjoyed it: watching paint dry is more exciting."

There was no more perceptive young critic in the survey than Alex Cook, 9, of Barrowford, Lancashire. Reviewing his parents' choice of Richmal Crompton's *Just William*, he said: "I loved it and would definitely recommend this book."

"I am sure that children nowadays will envy William and his friends because of the freedom they had, the way they could go off on their own on walks, train journeys and bicycle rides which we can't do because there are too many cars and bad people around."

Libby Purves, page 12

Police fear budget cuts will end role of bobby on beat

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY 40 police forces in England and Wales are under strength but chief constables still plan to cut another 2,000 officers this year, a national police conference was told yesterday.

Delegates were warned that policing was being "downgraded by stealth". If numbers continued to fall, ill-trained private security firms would be left to patrol the streets while regular officers responded only to emergencies.

Speaking at the annual Police Federation conference, David French, chairman of

the 97,000-strong constables' section, said that Home Office figures showed 38 out of 43 forces were understaffed. Chief constables were being employed on contracts tied to keeping within budgets and reducing manpower was the simplest way to do this.

He said it would not be long before private patrols in shopping malls moved to the streets outside. "Not long ago we were told the patrolling policeman was the frontline officer, the backbone of the service. Now we are told someone else can do the job."

Mr French described a future with "police confined to barracks like some urban army waiting the call to scramble". They would be used only to back up private patrols, he told the conference.

"British policing is being downgraded by stealth. We already know that the growth of private security services means those who can afford it are looking to hire hands to protect them, using the police only as the necessary back-up when arrests need to be made. "Private policing will be policing for profit: policing at the least cost for the maximum price, money palmed off of the insecure citizen by slick salesmen with a friendly smile and the persuasive powers of a side-handled baton."

Diane Reardon, the constables' vice-chairman, said "civil patrollers" could be walking the beat within 25 years. They might be dressed to look like regular officers but in fact they would be untrained, badly equipped and poorly paid.

"In short they will be little more than a mixture of bully boys, concerned with completing the shift with a minimum of disruption," she said. The streets would be watched by closed circuit television as local forces were replaced by an impersonal national force in an equally impersonal European network.

Mr French also expressed concern about perks agreed in the new contracts of some chief officers. A deal negotiated in West Yorkshire that included executive cars and £10,000 for home security was criticised in the latest edition of the federation's magazine *Police* in an article headed "The Cedric Brown Syndrome" — after the chief executive of British Gas whose pay rise was widely condemned recently.

Mr French said: "If there is the slightest smell of British Gas when our senior executives write out their pay cheques no number of sharp public relations men will keep their reputation clean."

The conference was told that a survey of 73,400 officers showed that 60 per cent complained of low morale. Nearly 90 per cent of the officers, up to the rank of chief inspector, reported dissatisfaction with the criminal justice system.

Big Mac casualty awarded £12,000

AN ENGLISH tourist has been awarded £12,000 after biting off more than he could chew when he tried to eat a Big Mac in Sydney.

Alan Bailey, 36, lost two teeth when he bit into a "hard object" in the hamburger. He spent the next month in and out of a dental surgery undergoing extensive root canal work and being fitted with two false teeth. A Sydney court has ordered McDonald's to pay him the compensation.

Mr Bailey, who was on a four-month holiday in 1993, said: "I started eating it and bit into something really hard. I felt around in my mouth and found a load of jagged edges."

He spat out the object — believed to be part of a metal spatula which fell into the meat during cooking — but did not see what he had eaten because a waitress immediately removed it.

"She came over and saw blood coming out of my mouth," he said. "She took the plate away and asked me if I wanted a replacement meal." Bleeding and in intense pain, Mr Bailey declined the offer.

While waiting for his dental treatment, however, he met and married his wife Zoe. They now have a baby daughter. Mr Bailey said: "I know it was a disaster at the time, but if it hadn't happened, I wouldn't have met Zoe." The couple intend to set up home in Bondi.



Alan Bailey and his wife Zoe, whom he met while waiting for dental treatment

Jobhunters warm to life in Antarctic

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

AN ADVERTISEMENT for staff for the British Antarctic Survey has brought a huge response from Britons eager to work in the frozen wastes.

More than 100 applicants a day are applying for jobs as electricians, tractor drivers, plumbers and carpenters with the scientific research units at the South Pole.

The survey wants technical experts of both sexes who are aged 21 to 35, single and physically fit. They will work with a construction team for five months during the Antarctic summer, earning between £1,000 and £1,300 a

month with free board and lodging. Another six will be offered contracts of up to 33 months.

Those chosen will fly to the Falkland Islands and South America in November before taking ships to Antarctica, where they will join about 130 members of the survey's research teams until May.

Steve Canham, building officer for the survey, said: "There is obviously an element of excitement and danger to the post. It can be tough, too, as we are often working 12 to 24-hour shifts in constant daylight."

He said that workers must be able to cope with monoto-

ny, isolation and average summer temperatures of -5C. Those seeking a varied social life need not apply. "There's not a lot to do at night; the social side at base is whatever you make of it. We don't want people who just want to sit and watch television."

Workers could, though, take the opportunity to save a lot of money. "There's not a lot to spend your money on over there. You can't just pop to the Chinese takeaway or the corner shop."

Mr Canham said most employees were resourceful and took to the lifestyle well, but sometimes one could not adapt. "Occasionally people

have left, unable to cope with the monotony, but, considering the number of employees we have taken out there over the years, we have a very good success rate."

Simon Gill, who first worked as a carpenter with the survey in 1986, said the beauty of the environment compensated for the cold and isolation. "My first job was like working on a building site except with the most fascinating views imaginable. I would be cutting up timber and all around was a frozen sea littered with icebergs. On the ice floes were seals, penguins and countless varieties of sea birds," he said.

Contraceptive with useful side-effects

SINCE the inception of the contraceptive Pill, the possibility of it increasing the likelihood of a pulmonary embolism — a clot in the lung — has always been acknowledged. What is less understood is that the modern Pill is only one-ninth as likely to cause this trouble as the pregnancy which might have occurred without it.

Over the past 35 years the amount of hormone given to achieve contraception has been constantly reduced. The latest formulation, available in Britain for the first time this week, is delivered through an intrauterine device (IUD), a tiny plastic insert which is fitted as it were a standard coil. This IUD, Mirena, delivers a daily dose of proges-

table to the ovum that it will not implant.

For the time being, Mirena is licensed for prescription only as a contraceptive but this may change. Professor John Guillebaud, of University College London, who masterminded Mirena's introduction into Britain from Scandinavia, has noticed one side-effect he has not seen before with anything he has given to his patients. The Mirena IUD offered to them for contraception has in many instances

cured them of the heavy menstrual bleeding that has plagued their lives. It seems likely that Mirena, after it has been fully tested, will be found to have a use in treating those who suffer heavy bleeding as they approach the menopause.

Already a variant of Mirena is under trial as part of hormone replacement therapy. It is inserted as an IUD and delivers low-dose progesterone to counteract the effects of oestrogen taken by mouth. The doses are so small that the progesterone side-effects that dissuade many women from continuing HRT are not apparent.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Dr Thomas Stuttaford, a gynaecologist at the Royal Free Hospital, London, said: "Mirena is a very interesting development. It is a contraceptive with useful side-effects."

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Amnesiac robbed of lifeline

By A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN whose diaries were stolen from her car says she cannot cope without them and has appealed for their return. Eva Wiesel, 39, suffered chronic memory loss after a cycling accident four years ago.

Miss Wiesel, 39, of Dodford, Hereford and Worcester, said

yesterday: "I need to write down everything I need to do and my thoughts about what I've seen and done, otherwise the memory is lost for ever. It is like the thief has taken my life from me."

The former teacher said that she had to refer to her diaries — written in three notebooks — every day "just to know what day it is when I wake up

in the morning". She added: "My relationship with my long-time boyfriend broke up not long after the accident. My boyfriend said my personality changed. I have to write everything down. I can't even remember where my friends live without my diaries."

"These books are of no use to anybody else, but they are vital in helping me cope."

هكذا من الأصل

Survival rate below norm in British cancer cases

BY CATHERINE MILTON, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

CANCER patients in Britain are likely to die sooner from some forms of the disease than those in continental Europe, according to a study published yesterday.

The proportion of British stomach cancer patients surviving after five years, 8 or 9 per cent, is about half the European average of 16 per cent. This disparity is reflected in the survival prospects of patients suffering from other cancers that respond better to early diagnosis, such as cancer of the breast and large bowel.

Professor Michel Coleman, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the British co-ordinator of the Eurocare study funded by the European Union, said: "The results of the study do not enable us to pinpoint the reasons for all of this variation precisely, but the range of survival rates indicates that in a number of countries, including Great Britain, there is at the very least room for improvement."

The study of 800,000 patients in 11 countries found that patients in Finland, Switzerland and The Netherlands fare best and those in Poland and Estonia fare worst. It claims to compare cancer survival rates across national borders for the first time, having studied patients diagnosed with one of 27 different kinds of cancer between 1978 and 1985 for a minimum of five years.

It found British patients also have a relatively poor chance of surviving cancers of the lung, colon, ovary and cervix. The figures show that five years after diagnosis 5.4 per cent of English women with lung cancer are still alive compared with a European average of 8.8 per cent; 34 per cent of English men and

women with cancer of the colon/Europe 40 per cent; 61.8 per cent of Scottish women with breast cancer/Europe 66.5 per cent; 26.1 per cent of English women with ovarian cancer/Europe 29.5 per cent; and 51.9 per cent of Scottish women with cervical cancer/Europe 57.5 per cent.

British women with cancer of the uterus, men with lung cancer and those of both sexes with cancers of the rectum, brain and pancreas, have an average chance of surviving for more than five years.

The study's authors stress that no direct conclusions can be drawn about the relative efficiency of different national health care systems because Eurocare did not analyse the spread of the cancers at diagnosis or the treatments.

The countries included in the study were Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Britain. Within Britain data were available for the whole of Scotland and for 46 per cent of the population of England.

Details of the study, carried out by the Eurocare Working Group and funded by the EU's Biomed programme, were announced yesterday at the Royal Society of Medicine. A review of all breast screening records in Scotland has uncovered 34 procedural errors and found, for the second time this year, a woman with breast cancer who had been given the all-clear, the Scottish Breast Screening Programme said yesterday. The first woman's case, highlighted in March, prompted the Government to ask for a review of more than 500,000 breast screening records in Scotland. The review discovered the second cancer victim.



The baths of Antoninus Pius, the Roman emperor, built between 143 and 162 AD, are the focus of efforts to conserve the ruins of Carthage

Modern battle to save ancient Carthage

FROM NICK NUTTALL IN TUNIS

BRITISH conservationists are working to save the remains of Carthage, 2,000 years after the city was destroyed by the Romans.

Today, the threat to the city founded by Dido, the Phoenician princess, in 814 BC comes from erosion, salty Mediterranean air, looting, tourists and neglect. The motto of the Roman Senate, c.174 BC, was *Delenda est Carthago* — "Carthage must be destroyed". Now the ravages of time and the encroachments of the modern city of Tunis could obliterate what remains after the final defeat by the Romans in AD 146.

Celebrated by Virgil, painted by Turner, and evoked in music by Purcell and Berlioz, Carthage was the capital of a civilisation that encompassed much of the Mediterranean

shore, and had the temerity to attempt an attack on Rome from the north. Archaeologists and art historians fear they are losing the battle to chronicle and preserve the wealth of Phoenician, Roman and early Christian treasures.

Dr Margaret Alexander, of the University of Iowa, who is cataloguing and photographing mosaics at the site, said yesterday: "It is a scandal. This is a world heritage site. Tourists are using rocks to get fragments of the mosaics. Others walk on them and they just crumble away."

Pine trees and weeds are over-running excavations, punching their roots up through buildings, temples and chapels, causing tiles and walls to collapse.

"It is a race against time. A number of the mosaics will

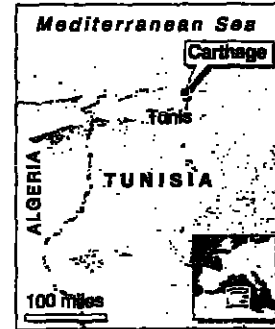
probably go this year," Dr Alexander said. She said the Tunisian authorities were doing their best to maintain the monuments. But funds were scarce and international archaeological missions to help were dwindling.

The British move is being led by Paul Walshe, an adviser to the Countryside Commission supported by the Tunisian agency for cultural conservation. Thirteen volunteers from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers are bringing skills such as drystone walling, footpath laying and maintenance. The aim is to encourage tourism which does not threaten the ruins, in an attempt to generate funds for conservation, and show the world that Carthage needs rescuing.

The Carthaginians' empire stretched into Spain, and their trading routes reached Cornwall's tin mines and the gold mines of West Africa. Their wars against Rome led to feats of audacity and heroism. Hannibal is renowned for his brilliant pre-emptive strikes in 218 BC, when he crossed the Alps with elephants.

"This is where it all stemmed from and you expect to meet a civilisation that equals the tales and you find this," Mr Walshe said, pointing to the concrete patchwork and bleak dusty landscape which is Carthage today.

The British project aims to transform the presentation of the Roman baths of Antoninus. Once a vast sprawling structure of gyms, steambaths and swimming pools, they were built in the second century AD and were among the



largest in the Roman world. The colonnades, fragmented cupolas and vaulted ceilings are being brought alive with information plaques and landscaping. A model of the baths will form the centrepiece.

Funding is being provided by Panorama, a tour operator, with help from Green Flag International, a "green tourism" charity in Cambridge.

Exhausted doctor gave man fatal injection, court told

BY A STAFF REPORTER

AN OVERWORKED junior hospital doctor accused of killing a patient last year injected a lethal dose of penicillin into his brain instead of his arm, her trial was told yesterday.

Dr Yin Yin Teoh, a 25-year-old Malaysian, was about to finish a 14-hour shift at Belfast Royal Victoria Hospital when she allegedly administered the fatal injection. The pre-registered house officer denies the manslaughter of Samuel Beers, 36, of Newtownards, Co Down, who died from a heart attack in the intensive care unit two days after the injection.

Belfast Crown Court was told that Mr Beers suffered from blinding headaches and one tube had been inserted into his brain to draw off excess fluid while another went into his arm to administer medication.

John Creaney, QC, for the prosecution, said that the doctor's actions constituted gross negligence. He said that Mr Beers had been expected to make a full recovery until Dr Teoh injected penicillin into the wrong tube. He said that shortly after 1pm on January 31 last year Dr Teoh called medical staff after Mr Beers became "anxious, flushed, hot and felt very sick" and told a doctor she had just injected him several minutes earlier.

In a statement to police, Dr Teoh said that in the previous week she had worked for 110 hours because of staff shortages as opposed to the recommended 73 hours and that when she gave the injection she was about to end a 14-hour shift. She also told police that before giving the injection she had tried to sort out the tangled tubing.

Dr Rosemary McLintock, another junior doctor, said that at the time Mr Beers became ill, Dr Teoh was concerned she might have given the injection in the wrong place.

The trial continues.



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'There is no secret agenda from Brussels'

Stop treating us as opponents, Santer tells Britain

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, issued a fresh challenge to the Government's European policy last night, urging Britain to stop treating Brussels as an opponent.

He insisted that Britain could not hope to get all it wants from Europe while "jamming" every initiative from other European countries, and in an implied attack on right-wing ministers he scorned the idea of tackling unemployment by taking a "pickaxe" to welfare payments.

Mr Santer's speech to business leaders in London, which included strong support for the social chapter and a single currency, came as John Major tilted further towards his party's Euro-sceptic wing with a broad hint of the Government's agenda for the next year's summit on the future of the European Union.

In remarks that put him at odds with Mr Santer, the Prime Minister said in the Commons that Britain would be pressing for a strengthened role for national parliaments. He reiterated his insistence that the opt-outs from the social chapter and the final stage of economic and monetary union were non-negotiable.

Mr Santer, addressing the Confederation of British Industry's annual dinner, rejected the charge that the European Commission had fixed ideas that it wanted to impose. "There is no secret agenda and no dictat from Brussels."

But he added: "It is time to stop treating the European Commission as an opponent when we are on the same side." Europe wanted Britain's enterprise, creativity, inventiveness, principles and pragmatism. "We need your best shot, your best efforts."

Emphasising that British initiatives often ended up as mainstream Commission policy, he said: "It would be inexplicable if you, of all people, went into a defensive huddle on Europe when you have most to gain of spreading your views about how business is best done."

But he warned Britain: "The European Union is not a one-way street where only one member state gets what it wants, while jamming all of its partners' initiatives. That clearly will not work."

Mr Major's remarks came as the Cabinet committee

drawing up the British agenda for the inter-governmental conference neared the completion of its work before a meeting of the full Cabinet, probably soon after the Whitsun bank holiday. He said: "The EU needs to be more responsive to the views of its people, with less interference and less red tape. We will go into the IGC with a positive agenda for more inter-governmental co-operation between a Europe of nation states, including foreign policy, defence and the international battle against crime. We shall be pressing for more subsidiarity, more action against fraud and mismanagement and a strengthened role for national parliaments."

Mr Santer said that while the social chapter had been painted as a "great bogeyman" and a "handicap" to efficient business, most Europeans wanted a caring society that looked after people in need. Efficient welfare was a determining characteristic of Europe, and the countries with the strongest trade balances were certainly not those with the lowest labour costs. In what was widely taken by business leaders as a reference to welfare reform in Britain



led by Peter Lilley and Michael Portillo, the Cabinet's principal Euro-sceptics, Mr Santer declared: "If any European member state government were to attempt to take a pickaxe to welfare — God forbid — wage rates for an engineer or a blue-collar worker would still be 15 to 20 times more in most parts of the EU than, for example, in

eastern Europe." Not only would this not resolve, on its own, Europe's unemployment problems, it would have a "negative, disruptive and destabilising effect on our economies and our societies."

Although Mr Santer told the CBI that Brussels did not intend to use the IGC to extend its power, he rejected the idea of opt-outs under which a

country could choose parts of the treaty that pleased them and discard others.

Repeating his criticism in Brussels last week of "pick and choose à la carte Europe," he said: "That formula will inevitably lead to the fragmentation of Europe and, eventually, bitter recriminations of free-riding. It won't work and I won't support it."

MP seeks illegal immigrant jobs ban

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

A BILL that would make it an offence to employ illegal immigrants passed its first Commons hurdle yesterday.

Nigel Waterson, Tory MP for Eastbourne, introduced the Employment of Illegal Immigrants Bill under the ten-minute rule. It passed its first reading with a majority of nine votes. Although it has no chance of becoming law, there is growing speculation that Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will introduce a similar proposal at the next Queen's Speech.

Mr Waterson said that at least 40,000 illegal immigrants came to Britain each year and only one in seven was captured. Many worked in hotels, restaurants, and factories and on farms at harvest time in conditions of near slave-labour. Although it was unlawful to harbour illegal immigrants, it was not illegal to employ them.

"This is not a problem that any responsible Government can ignore," Mr Waterson said. "There should be a specific statutory requirement of employers that they must check the immigration status of all immigrants. If not satisfied, they should not employ them."

Neil Gerrard, Labour MP for Walthamstow, said: "This Bill is based on prejudice and would foster prejudice. It's a nasty, vicious little proposal."



Crossbench convenor to retire

BY ALICE THOMSON

THE grande dame of British politics, Lady Hylton-Foster (above), will retire next month after devoting most of her 86 years to Westminster.

The formidable convenor of the crossbench peers started her political life canvassing for her father, Viscount Ruffside, who became a Tory MP after the First World War. When he became Speaker during the Second World War, she would watch Winston Churchill's speeches from the gallery. Her husband, the Tory MP Sir Harry Hylton-Foster, also became Speaker.

When she was created a peeress in 1965 there were only a handful of crossbenchers. Ten years later there were enough to need her as a convenor and now there are 286 holding the balance of power in the Lords.

Although she can still run the 46 stairs up to her office she is tired of working 12-hour days and will hand over to Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker in the Commons, next month.

Labour plans to cap private utility profits

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR announced plans yesterday to cap the "excessive" profits of privatised utilities as Britain's biggest electricity generator revealed a £700 million surplus.

Tony Blair, the party leader, demanded an end to the "unseemly racket" operating in the utilities as he unveiled a scheme under which a Labour government would force water, electricity and gas companies to share their profits with their customers.

Labour's announcement, which follows growing public concern about the profits of privatised utilities and big pay awards, came as National Power, one of the two generating companies, announced a £705 million profit for the past year. But the party's plans to control profits were immediately attacked by the Government as "old style socialism".

In an angry clash in the Commons, Mr Blair accused John Major of siding with millionaire managers against hard-pressed customers and argued that electricity prices had risen since the industry was sold off. "Given the latest pay-and-perks scandal of the utilities at the weekend, and also today's massive rise in electricity profits, don't you recognise that these utilities have degenerated into an unseemly racket and the sooner you order a thorough overhaul of their system of regulation the better," he said.

The Prime Minister said that the plans were a move to

control and regulate from the centre and smacked of old Labour in the 1970s rather than new Labour of the 1990s. Both proposals "unnecessary and unworkable". He insisted that utility prices had fallen with privatisation.

Labour later produced independent research by the Commons showing a 2.1 per cent rise in electricity prices in real terms since privatisation.

Earlier, speaking at a London conference, Mr Blair said there was widespread consensus that the present regulatory framework was not working. "There is evident public discontent about the levels of profits being reported and a widespread perception that the companies are being run only in the interests of their shareholders and top executives," he said.

Labour's key proposal is to set a "normal" profit level after



Cunningham: expects knock-on effect on pay

negotiations between the regulators and the industries. Profits over that level would be shared between the companies and customers in the form of rebates or reduced prices. The companies could then decide how much of their bonus to pass onto its shareholders.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, later disclosed that Labour was also considering plans for a panel of regulators, ending the "highly personalised" approach of appointing one individual. A Labour government would also set up a new appeals mechanism to force regulators to justify their decisions on prices. One plan is to hold public hearings to allow consumers, management and shareholders to cross-examine the panel.

Dr Cunningham also said Labour was drawing up proposals for a Corporate Governance Act, which he would discuss this week with Sir Richard Greenbury, who is leading the inquiry into boardroom pay. Labour's proposals fail to deal directly with top pay although Dr Cunningham argued that the plan to cap industry profits would have a knock-on effect.

Jonathan Aitken, Chief Treasury Secretary, said the plans were a "half-baked policy" which amounted to a return to the philosophy of the gentleman in Whitehall knows best and old-style socialist and union meddling.

Party 'turncoats' inquiry

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

TWO branch Labour parties in Bradford have been suspended by the party's ruling body over allegations that their members canvassed for Tory candidates in the council elections.

Both seats were party strongholds but one of them was captured by the Tories — one of only two Tory gains from Labour in England and Wales — and the other was held by a whizzer. Before the election the sitting Labour councillor in both wards had been de-selected and replaced by candidates supported by different factions of Bradford's large Asian community. Labour's organisation com-

mittee, part of the National Executive Committee, has suspended the two branches indefinitely pending investigations into claims that voters were swayed by family, tribal and business interests. Some members are said to have put Tory posters in their windows and canvassed for the Tory candidate.

Arshad Hussain, 26, a restaurant owner who was the surprise Tory victor in Toller ward, said yesterday that he was flattered that Labour supporters had campaigned for him and helped him to win by 154 votes. "I had support from the Kashmiri, Hindu and Sikh communities and that shows,"

he said. In Bradford Moor ward, where Labour was expected to increase its majority to 2,500, the Tory candidate, Sakawat Hussain, came within 51 votes of defeating the new Labour candidate, Ragvir Virdee. The close count ended in a fight between the rival supporters and the behaviour of members there is to be investigated as part of the Labour inquiry.

Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West, which includes Toller ward, said: "This inquiry into the conduct and organisation of the Labour election campaign is necessary and will be widely welcomed."

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Blind head of Aum Shinrikyo found meditating in 3ft-high hidden compartment

Cult leader interrogated over nerve gas attack

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

POLICE in Japan were last night interrogating Shoko Asahara, the cult leader allegedly responsible for the worst terror attack in the country since the Second World War. The nation watched spellbound as television journalists reported on the long-awaited "X-day", eight weeks after the sarin attack on the Tokyo underground in which 12 people died. Police arrested Mr Asahara after dawn raids on Aum Shinrikyo's main compound in Kamikuchiki, near Mount Fuji, and other locations.

Mr Asahara, who is the self-proclaimed guru of the fanatical religious cult, was discovered meditating alone, clad in his trademark purple robes, in a 3ft-high mezzanine compartment hidden between two floors of one building. He had barricaded himself in, but offered no resistance when police smashed through the wooden barrier shortly before 10 am. When he was told he was under arrest for murder, the half-blind cult leader said: "I understand."

Mr Asahara, 40, was bundled into a police van, out of sight of hundreds of journalists who had provided live coverage of the raids since dawn. Their vehicles and helicopters followed the van on the two-hour journey to Tokyo, but the reporters failed to see Mr Asahara as the van was driven straight into a basement garage at police headquarters. After hours of inter-

rogation, Mr Asahara was reported to have denied repeatedly that he had any involvement in the subway attack, claiming that his bad eyesight would have prevented him from orchestrating such an operation.

The cult leader's arrest was the most sensational of 130 raids launched simultaneously

gases. The raids followed the issuing on Monday of arrest warrants for Mr Asahara and 40 cult followers on suspicion of murder or attempted murder. By last night, 30 suspects were in custody. Some of them were among the 220 or so cult followers who have been arrested in the past few weeks, mainly on unrelated and mi-

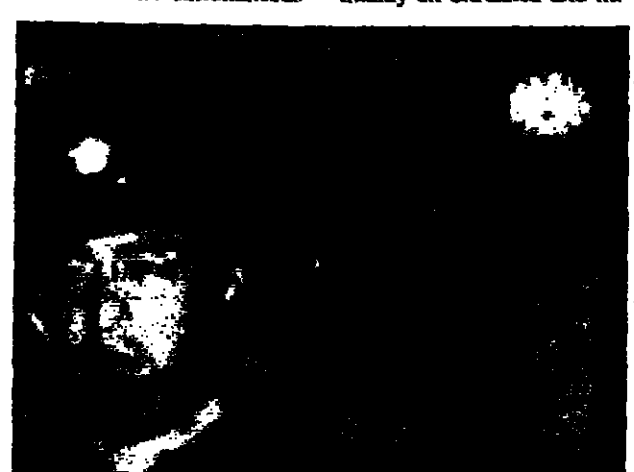
dent that the sect had no hidden supplies of sarin, the toxic nerve gas used in the subway attack. The huge increase in security around Tokyo, including the posting of guards on every major railway platform and intersection, has, however, clearly unnerved residents.

Tomichi Murayama, the Prime Minister, announced shortly after Mr Asahara's arrest that an extra 80,000 police would be mobilised in major cities to guard against possible further terrorist attacks. He welcomed the news of the arrest, but said Japan should "stay close on guard".

Mr Murayama said the Government would seek a court order to disband the cult, if Mr Asahara and his followers were found guilty of murder.

A bomb explosion at the Tokyo metropolitan government office at 7 pm yesterday raised tension in the city. The bomb, which was in a package delivered to the Governor's office, seriously injured an aide.

There were suggestions, however, that the attack was part of a personal vendetta against Yukio Aoshima, the newly elected Governor of Tokyo. Mr Aoshima has been in office only a month, but has already antagonised powerful business and civic groups with his efforts to cancel large public works projects and an international exposition due to be held next year.



Shoko Asahara, the Aum Shinrikyo leader, is driven away from the cult's headquarters at dawn yesterday



Officers hold back the mob of journalists as the van taking Mr Asahara to the Tokyo police headquarters leaves the sect's compound near Mount Fuji. Raids were carried out on 130 of the organisation's premises

Jails 'rely on torture and slave labour'

BY GWEN ROBINSON

SHOKO ASAHARA, the cult leader, will be finding that little regard is paid in Japan to the notion of fair treatment before the establishment of guilt and that jail conditions are designed to break prisoners' resistance.

Convicts spend up to 25 years on death row and executions are carried out without notification to families. There is also evidence that big Japanese companies use prison labour to help in producing their goods.

One of the most vivid accounts of prison life came from a Briton who spent a year in a Tokyo jail on suspicion of robbery. He described his existence as a "living hell" with

repeated physical and mental torture, a description that accords with the experience of countless Japanese detainees. Sigrun Kai Falkum, 34, of Eastbourne, was arrested in December 1990 on suspicion of helping his brother to rob a grocery shop in central Tokyo. Throughout the ensuing 15 months, he said, he was subjected to varying degrees of torture and treated like "a brute animal". He was eventually released, without conviction, and is suing the Government for ten million yen (£73,500).

Mr Falkum is claiming that he suffered physical and psychological damage during his detention and was denied access to the British Embassy. "The violence started when a prison

warder told me to take my feet off the bed and I replied in Japanese. 'Don't speak to me like a pig, I'm a human being,' he said in an interview after his release. Two guards dragged him out of his cell, he said, and in the struggle he fell into a window pane, cutting his face, wrist and foot. He was then pushed into a small cell where a wet towel was forced into his mouth, and he was stripped and beaten.

Human rights groups, among them the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International, have criticised Japan's legal and detention system. The charges include torture and coercion by police to extract false confessions. One of the most potentially embarrassing allega-

tions is that by a New York lawyer who says that large Japanese private companies are using prison inmates, among them "several dozen foreigners", as virtual slave labour.

Michael Griffith says he knows of nearly 40 foreign inmates, including British, American, German, French and Australian citizens, who are being "forced to work for as little as three cents an hour, eight-and-a-half hours a day, five-and-a-half days a week". Their labour "produces commercial goods bearing the names of prestigious Japanese companies". A prisoner who refuses to work, he claimed, "is thrown into a punishment cell, manacled, forced to eat off the floor, and defecate in his uniform".

Entrepreneur guru who mixed mysticism with bogus potions

FROM OUR TOKYO CORRESPONDENT

AS ONE of seven children in a poor family of bamboo-mat merchants in western Japan, Shoko Asahara was sent with his blind brother to a school for the blind.

There he thrived, excelling in sports and in social relationships. He also exhibited entrepreneurial talents and once boasted that he had saved £20,000 by the time he finished high school.

By his mid-teens, Shoko had developed an unshakable

conviction that he was "the blessed, chosen one". But society let him down. He failed to gain entry to the college where he wanted to study medicine, an experience which some say left him embittered. By 1978, with his sight deteriorating, he turned to studies of acupuncture and other forms of oriental medicine. It was a path that led him eventually into oriental religion.

Before that, however, in the early 1980s, he acquired a

small fortune peddling natural medicines. He was arrested and fined in 1982 for selling fake drugs. One of his "miracle potions" was found to consist of little more than tangerine peel and alcohol.

Mr Asahara's brush with the law deepened his dark visions of mainstream Japanese society. But his faith in himself never wavered and, after travelling in India and Nepal, he claimed to have achieved enlightenment.

Filipinos challenge expansionist China off Mischief Reef

Abby Tan, on a Philippine naval vessel, sees tensions rising around the Spratly Islands

CHINESE and Philippine ships confronted each other near the Spratly Islands at the weekend in a graphic demonstration of rising tensions over rival claims to the strategic territory. Two Chinese vessels blocked a Philippine naval ship carrying a general and a group of foreign and Filipino journalists in a tense 70-minute stand-off near a Chinese-held reef in the disputed Spratly group.

China yesterday accused the Philippines of breaching its sovereignty by taking reporters to the islands and gave a warning that any similar actions could result in "serious consequences". We advise the other side not to misinterpret China's restraint, but instead to return to the correct path of negotiations to resolve this dispute," the official Xinhua



A Philippine patrol ship, right, steams close to a Chinese fishing vessel during a 70-minute standoff in the Spratlys. Peking protested at the presence of journalists

news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying. The two Chinese ships, with markings identifying them as fishing boats, cut across the bow of the Philippine naval vessel *Benguet* and then hemmed in the 4,000-tonne tank landing ship from two sides.

As the two Chinese vessels moved towards the *Benguet*, Major-General Carlos Tanega, on board the vessel, called in his patrol escort, the *Miguel Malvar*, which immediately took up a position between the Chinese vessels and the *Benguet*. Later, two Chinese

frigates, identified by General Tanega, appeared on the horizon 15 nautical miles away in apparent support of the Chinese fishing vessels. They appeared to be advancing rapidly. At one point, the smaller of the fishing vessels steamed to within 50 yards of the *Benguet*.

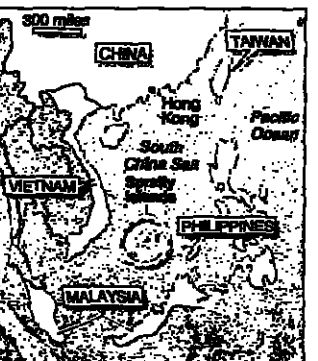
The Chinese vessels blocked the path of the Philippine naval vessel as journalists were lifted off in helicopters to inspect Mischief Reef, which China has seized and fortified. The face-off was the clearest illustration since China fought Vietnam, in a naval battle in

1988, of Peking's determination to claim all the Spratlys as its own. The encounter came during a trip organised by the Philippine

Mischief Reef, 135 nautical miles from Palawan, the southwestern island of the Philippines, which Manila claims is within its 200-mile

sea links kept open. The Chinese earlier tried to stop the six-day press mission through diplomatic channels. President Ramos of the Philippines brushed aside Chinese objections and ordered the first-ever press party to the Spratlys to proceed under military escort.

The Foreign Ministry in Peking gave a warning that the press visit would internationalise a claim it considered bilateral, although four other countries lay claim to the Spratlys. The confrontation was watched by 39 journalists standing on the deck of the



themselves. "They were just too close for comfort," he emphasised, explaining his order to the escort boat to cut in.

Just as the helicopter sorties were completed, two Chinese frigates were seen racing towards us, one furiously puffing black smoke 13 nautical miles away on the horizon. The chase ended when the *Benguet* changed course to sail north to Pagasa, the largest island in the Spratlys held by the Philippines.

A series of photographs taken by Philippine air force planes on seven other sites show the systematic manner in which the Chinese build military facilities in the far-flung string of cays, islets and sandbars. They start with octagonal steel structures which grow to include four-storey towers. "They are meant to be the start of something permanent," General Tanega commented. At Subi Reef, a bridge leads to a helipad, while a power house has anti-aircraft guns mounted on the sides of the roof. At Fiery Cross Reef there is an air raid shelter, even a nursery to grow vegetables.

Look at it! Look at what they have done. They have crossed our bow! That was just too close for comfort!

Government to show foreign media how aggressively China has built up seven other military outposts out of sandbars and atolls. China's latest grab — the eighth — was

economic zone. China's ambitions have sent ripples of concern through the Association of South East Asian Nations, Japan and the United States, which want the vital

Benguet. They were invited by the Philippine Government to visit the portion of the Spratlys that it claimed, and renamed the Kalayaan Islands group. The Philippines have fortified its island since 1978. China claims all the Spratlys, Malaysia, Brunei, Taiwan and Vietnam claim parts of the group.

General Tanega, the chief of the Philippine Western Area Command, was irate. "Look at it!" he exclaimed to the journalists. "Look at what they have done. They have crossed our bow!" He added that the Chinese vessels had ignored repeated calls to identify them-

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German strategist ready to rekindle British EU anger

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

A top Christian Democrat is urging more tightly integrated foreign and interior policies in the European Union. His ideas would leave Britain further out in the cold

KARL LAMERS, the Christian Democrat strategist who triggered off British indignation with a proposal for a "hardcore" Europe, is about to launch a second provocative paper, urging more tightly integrated foreign and interior policies as the basis for Germany's approach to the Maastricht review conference next year.

His central idea, which seems to have the support of Helmut Kohl's chancellery, is to create a powerful secretary-general figure for the European Union, broadly comparable with the Secretary-General of Nato. This official would in effect be Europe's foreign minister and make use of a secretariat that would plan, analyse and initiate common policies.

The secretary-general would have executive powers but the Lamers paper, which will be published on June 13, leaves open the question of whence the official would draw his authority: from the European Council or from the Commission. One possibility is that the secretary-general could be sponsored by the Council, the Commission and the Western European Union.

"We have to demonstrate a common will, that is, we have to have common decision-making institutions," Herr Lamers said in an interview with *The Times*. For British Eurosceptics, Herr Lamers has taken on some of the demonic qualities of Jacques Delors. Although he emphasises that he is not a bureaucratic centralist, nor a German nationalist in federal clothes, he has provoked the ire of many Europeans (including Italian leaders) for suggesting that France, Germany and the Benelux countries should be the driving force of the new Europe.

His plan for an effective European foreign policy constitutes a direct challenge to Britain, because it cannot work without the use of qualified majority voting and the surrender of the national veto on some issues. Herr Lamers gave some clues yesterday as to how voting procedures

If British MPs could vote freely, we would have a majority for Europe

a common policy, for example, towards Russia.

Herr Lamers welcomed Britain's initiative to revitalise the Western European Union. One British idea is that the leaders of the WEU states would meet back to back with full European summits. The Germans are determined, however, that the WEU should not develop separately from the European Union.

"We agree that a merging of the WEU with Europe proper cannot happen now," Herr Lamers said, but that clearly was the medium-term goal for Germany.

It is becoming increasingly obvious in Bonn — despite the warmth of gesture displayed

by John Major in his recent meetings with Herr Kohl — that Germany is betting on a change at 10 Downing Street before the end of the inter-governmental conference. Herr Lamers hinted at it: "If British Members of Parliament could vote freely, we would have a majority for Europe, a different attitude — and it will happen."

Germany's representative on the European Study Group, which is due to meet in Messina on June 2 to prepare some of the intellectual framework for the inter-governmental conference, seems to agree. In an interview yesterday, Werner Hoyer, state secretary in the Foreign Ministry, said that the conference would start in the early summer of next year under the Italian presidency and should end under the Dutch presidency the following spring, but that schedule could be kept only "if elections in Britain have by then strengthened the decisiveness of London [on European questions]."

The conference could not drag on much longer because then the whole ratification debate would be sucked into the German election campaign. Herr Lamers sees the British objections to Germany's European strategy as coming from national character: "Was it not Gladstone who said that John Bull hates two things: abstract principles and the Pope? Well, I'm not so sure about the Pope any more, but you still seem to dislike abstractions."

Herr Lamers' paper is designed, like the first released last September, to prod the French and stimulate debate in Europe. The central question remains whether the political union is stable enough to support a monetary union.

Santer challenge, page 8

President of paradox bows out of the Elysée Palace

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

AT 11 AM today, François Mitterrand will hand over power to Jacques Chirac in the Elysée Palace, ending the longest unbroken tenure of any French leader since Napoleon III, but leaving his country as divided as ever over his legacy.

Wasted by cancer, President Mitterrand, 78, views his survival to the end of his second seven-year term as a victory in itself. With the serenity of a man who has seen off all opponents in a half century in the upper echelons of politics, he is convinced that history will, as he says in a new book, enshrine him for "nurturing faith in the destiny of humanity, of France and of the construction of Europe".

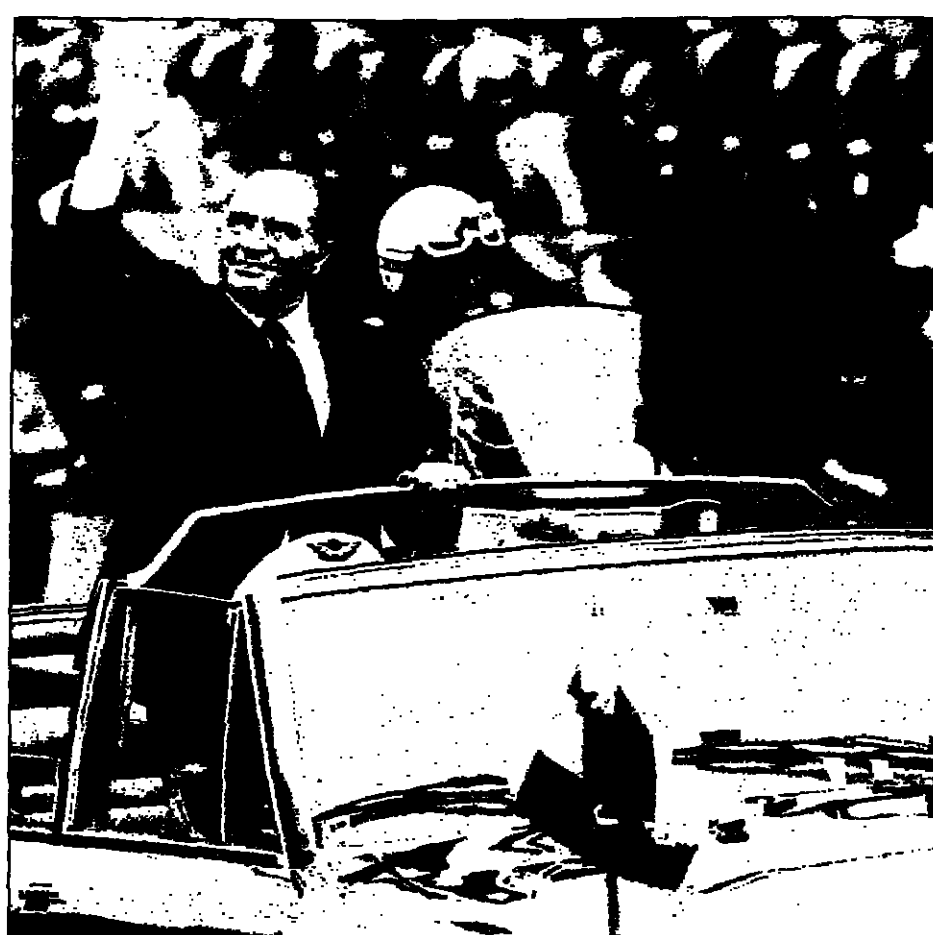
He also believes that the six billion francs (£756 million) he spent on architectural monuments for Paris will speak to future generations long after his detractors have left the scene.

Mitterrand's devotion to continental union is such that few would disagree with the verdict of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, that a "great European" is leaving the stage. Friends and foes believe he has preserved French grandeur through a visionary drive with Germany to build a united Europe.

Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the President defeated by Mitterrand in 1981, said he had "maintained the rank of France in the world".

Often, though, the credit is qualified. "Along with loyalty to his own Machiavellian genius, the European idea will have been the only constant in a political life based on dodges," said Jorge Semprun, the Spanish-born writer and candidate for the Académie Française.

In recent weeks, acres of words and pictures have been devoted to his life. Despite all the difficulties of the later years, with explosive unemployment, corruption and the disclosure of his Vichy past, polls show that 40 per cent of the population approve and 46 per cent disapprove of Mitterrand's record. Some



President Mitterrand waves to crowds during his first inauguration parade in the Champs-Élysées in 1981. This morning he hands over to Jacques Chirac

support stems from sympathy for the dignity with which the President has borne his illness and from his retreat from visible power in the past two years of Gaullist-led government. Much, however, springs from a very Gallic admiration for a cultivated figure whose passionate pursuit of power and mastery of the political arts surpassed that of all rivals, including de Gaulle, his old opponent.

Summing up the man known as *le Français* in the 1950s and *le Splendeur* in the 1980s, Alain Duhamel, a leading commentator, said: "De Gaulle will remain the most illustrious Frenchman of the century; Mitterrand will remain the most illustrious of politicians."

Common to the adieux is the view that paradox governed the career of this provincial Catholic who is reviled as a cynic and admired for his humanity. Not least of the contradictions is the fact that, as he bows out, the strongest criticisms are coming from the Left while some old foes on the Right are praising his statesmanship.

Many in the Socialist Party, which Mitterrand launched as his vehicle in 1971 after an early career as a

centrist, have never got over his abandonment of the near Marxist doctrines that were supposed to usher in a revolutionary new France. They are bitter about the enthusiasm with which he took to an institution that he had once derided as a "permanent coup d'état", turning it into the most imperial of presidencies.

"It will take another decade for socialism to rise from the ashes," said Michel Rocard, the rival whose political de-

struction, achieved last year, was one of Mitterrand's abiding obsessions. For those disappointed by Mitterrandism, the epitaph for his years in power is 12.3 per cent unemployment and the social fracture that was the leitmotif of M Chirac's campaign.

Beyond the disillusioned Left, there is wide approval for the way in which he proved, during two coalitions with the Right, that the idiosyncratic regime tailored for de Gaulle could cope with the alteration of party power like any other democracy.

A President who disclaimed the mechanics of the economy, he is widely praised for the speedy decision to jettison his Socialist platform and institute the monetary discipline that has ensured a strong currency and opened France to free trade with the outside world.

In the glow of farewells, France is awash with revisionist and personal views of the departing philosopher President, but one line appears more than any other. It is the comment by François Mauriac, the great mid-century novelist, that François Mitterrand lived his life as a character in a novel written by himself.



Mitterrand in Paris: ten days ago

Eloping US teacher surrenders

New York: The gym teacher who eloped with a teenage pupil, setting off a two-month manhunt, surrendered yesterday claiming he was trying to save the girl from an abusive family (James Bone writes).

Glenn Harris, 33, ran off with the 15-year-old girl from East Harlem high school in New York. They then travelled to Washington DC, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, California and Nevada in an unsuccessful search for a state that would give them a marriage licence. Mr Harris, who faces a charge of kidnapping, claimed a student came to him with "horrific" tales of "brutal abuse over years and years".

Students cook up trouble

Auckland: Two high school students using a recipe from the Internet were found concocting a bomb powerful enough to destroy a large building.

Sergeant Paul Ormond said a tip-off had led police to the two 17-year-olds, experimenting with a formula they took from a computer bulletin board. They said they were making fireworks, "but if they had followed the recipe precisely, there would have been fatal consequences", he said. (AP)

Hurd rebukes leader of Rock

Britain has lost patience with what it sees as shilly-shallying by Gibraltar over drug and tobacco smuggling, and has warned Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, that the present situation cannot continue (Michael Binyon writes).

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has told Mr Bossano that not enough had been done to stop money laundering on the Rock and halt lucrative smuggling.

Ferry fire deaths

Lucena: Forty-two people died when a Philippines islands ferry caught fire and sank, with passengers leaping into the sea without lifejackets in their panic. Another 23 people are missing. (Reuters)

American tariffs on cars point to Japan trade war

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA threatened to launch a trade war with Japan yesterday by announcing a list of 13 luxury Japanese cars on which Washington will impose 100 per cent tariffs unless Tokyo agrees to open its car and car-parts markets to US exports within a month.

The sanctions would be the largest Washington has ever imposed, effectively demolishing a \$5.9 billion (£3.75 billion) market for Japanese car manufacturers. Tokyo responded by saying that it would immediately appeal to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to block the move. Japanese car-makers, in turn, struggling to recover from recession, insisted



Kantor: a question of fundamental fairness

ed they would not succumb to American "boercion". Mickey Kantor, the US Trade Representative, acknowledged that the American threat was drastic but said the problem of Japanese protectionism "must finally be successfully resolved". The US market was open to Japanese products and "their market should be open to our products. It is a fundamental question of fairness."

President Clinton, although hoping that a trade war can still be averted, said the Japanese had for years refused to open their car market and "we can't any more deny this, the sweep it under the rug". The Administration further in-

Trial balloon on commercial links still up in the air

Douglas Hurd will try over the next two days to anchor to the ground the latest trial balloon that has been floating across the Atlantic over the past couple of months. The idea of a transatlantic free trade area has been in the air, but that is where it has remained. President Clinton and John Major agreed, when they met in Washington last month, that it was an interesting idea that should be discussed further.

RIDDLE ON POLITICS

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, has called for negotiations to set up just such a zone between Europe and the United States.

There is agreement on both sides at the political level that the transatlantic relationship needs to be strengthened because of the strains that have developed since the end of the Cold War and the neo-isolationist trends apparent in the new Republican-controlled Congress. Moreover, there is a desire to give fresh momentum to global trade talks following the end of the Gatt Uruguay round and the creation of the new World Trade Organisation.

The more closely the idea is examined, however, the more apparent the difficulties become. Is such a free trade area supposed to be the driving force behind a new round of trade liberalisation, or the nucleus of a regional trading bloc? How could it work while there are still disputes over agriculture, textiles, public procurement, films and television programmes? American officials have so far been cool about what is intended and what could be achieved.

In a speech in Chicago tomorrow, the Foreign Secretary will propose a series of ways to take these ideas forward to avoid either "a fortress Nafta [the North Atlantic Free Trade Area embracing the United States, Canada and Mexico] or a fortress Europe". Mr Hurd believes it is undesirable to

stand still, but anything involving tariff barriers would mean complicated multinational negotiations. Mr Hurd will therefore suggest that negotiators should concentrate at first on non-tariff barriers — issues such as procurement contracts and trade in audiovisual products. Horst Krenzler, the European Commission's director-general for external economic relations, said recently that the EU's next priority should be the removal of obstacles to trade in financial, maritime and basic telecommunications services.

Mr Hurd will also suggest that a group of businessmen from Europe and America should be set up to identify practical steps. He believes it could look at public procurement and subsidies. This is similar to the existing European group to ease the impact of EU regulations on business.

Various other proposals have been circulating for a new Atlantic assembly of European MPs and US Congressmen but few have any substance. Mr Hurd will also address America's role in the world. British officials are worried by pressures in Congress to reduce America's international commitments and, in particular, to cut back its contribution to the United Nations, much of which is already overdue. Mr Hurd believes there is not a simple choice between the full-scale commitment of American troops, for example, in Somalia and Haiti, and no involvement at all. Instead, he will argue that there should be a continuing American international role to promote stability even where no US troops are involved. This echoes the recent speech by Anthony Lake, Mr Clinton's National Security Adviser, who issued a warning about the dangers of a new isolationism that would undermine American efforts to promote democracy and arms control.

PETER RIDDELL

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Particularly in this video age, children still enjoy nothing more than to curl up with a good read. Now more than ever they need access to libraries

I WAS in a school library the other day, all brown shelving and Dewey labels and that intoxicating papery smell of massed books. It was a social occasion, with people wearing sticky labels; but some of us kept going quiet, and sidling towards the bookcases instead. Memories stirred, of early pleasure and boundless freedom on long wet afternoons spent lost in one book or browsing through many; of happiness in childhood and solace in adolescence.

Every child needs a library at hand. It is the baseline, the bare minimum for a civilised society, even in the age of multimedia and modish talk from television executives about a "post-literate society". Indeed, old and new media feed off one another: when Caxton invented the printing press, it did not kill conversation or theatre, did it? Modern children will check out something in the Encarta CD-Rom encyclopaedia on the

computer, then find a book to further their interest, and maybe a video as well. Public Lending Right figures show children's borrowing from libraries rising steadily: in and out of school, the demand is there.

But we are failing to meet it. The last time the Education Department bothered to look at school libraries was in 1979, so the Library Association has done it for them, examining public and school services to 66,000 children. Three-quarters were found seriously wanting. Some schools were spending only 55p a head, some did not staff the library at breaks. There is no statutory responsibility for keeping standards up, nor any Ofsted guidelines. The association tartly says:

"if dustbin collections can be audited, so can library provision", and demands decent funding, professional librarians, and co-operation between the Heritage Department (public libraries) and the DfE.

With money tight and permanent curricular revolution sapping headteachers' energies, it was perhaps predictable that quiet things such as libraries should have suffered. School fabric, equipment, staffing and discipline all clamour more brazenly for resources. So it is understandable, but not excusable. Because books, fiction or non-fiction, provide



LIBBY PURVES

children above all with a way out, a view over the side of their own often stifling lives.

Some will claim that TV has so improved that view as to make books less vital. Well, it has its points, does TV, and few of us would un-invent it. But it can also narrow the mind and make life even more stifling. For a nasty little morality tale, observe the daft child who yesterday told the world that at 14, with her equally daft mother's full backing, she plans cosmetic surgery to give her high cheekbones and slimmer thighs. Why? So she can be a presenter on Saturday

morning children's TV. Her mother says: "As soon as we have the money she'll have the operations. It is my dream to get my daughter on television, and the only way to do that is to make her more beautiful." If I were a children's TV producer today, I would be hiding my face, moaning: "What have we done? Have we really convinced two generations that the only people worth hearing from are the pretty ones?"

WELL, not quite. But if we haven't, much of the credit must go to the wide, the quirky, the informative and subversive and limitless world that only books open. Even the most lowbrow lazy reader will get bored with just reading about

people being beautiful, and demand that they do or say something interesting instead. Literacy is an emotional and social lifeline: children must never be left without good access to books. Especially in a video age.

Assorted celebrities surveyed this week revealed their own old favourites. Mrs Thatcher read the *Just So* stories. Bob Reid read *The Jungle Book*. Lloyd Grossman, liked *Hornblower* (wow!). John Major, that self-made man, offered a whole list, including *Robin Hood*, *30,000 Leagues under the Sea* and *Billy Bunter*. Today, as he wrestles the giant octopus of the economy, takes on the rich barons of the privatised industries, keeps Friar Clarke in order and is thrashed with cricket stumps (Yaroo! Rotters!), by pitiless Eurobastards, at least he has old friends in his head to solace him. His plain duty is to pass on the gift to the new generation.

The candidate's husband

Magnus Linklater has learnt to walk five paces behind his wife

I have been on quite a few campaign trails in my time. I've watched Margaret Thatcher working a crowd in Finchley, with that special handshake that moves people along without them realising what's happening. I've been with Ted Heath "enjoying a pint" in his local pub at Bexleyheath, one of the most unrelaxed occasions I can remember. I've seen Shirley Williams addressing a crowd of two in Hitchin, and Tony Benn exciting a hall packed to the rafters in Islington. But this is the first time I've been married to a candidate.

My wife has been picked by the Liberal Democrats of Perth and Kinross to fight the by-election which takes place there on May 25. Veronica Linklater is the "home" candidate, born and bred in the



Veronica Linklater is the Lib Dem candidate for Perth and Kinross; her husband has changed his role from breadwinner to house-husband at a stroke

area, campaigning on local issues. I am "the husband". My role is at best undefined. Officially it is "to support the candidate" but beyond that it's up to me. So far it has been an

unsettling experience. I have gone from breadwinner to house-husband in one. I have learnt to walk five paces behind the candidate with my hands clasped behind my

back. I race upstairs to collect scarves and spectacles as a driver waits impatiently behind the wheel, his eyes on the clock. I am a sounding-board for sound-bites, a sub-editor for speeches. I say things like "Are you sure you've got your notes?" I try to recall, at the last minute, what the Lib Dem position is on subsidiarity. I laugh infectiously in public at my wife's jokes. I begin to understand what it must be like to be Denis Thatcher. I am developing a penchant for gin and tonic.

Actually, it has been fascinating. Watching a by-election campaign from the inside is to see democracy stripped to its bare essentials — the basic exercise of prising votes from a suspicious electorate.

Since it is a Lib Dem campaign, it is also democracy on a shoe-string. Upstairs, in a tiny jumble of rooms off a side street in Perth, is the nerve-centre of our operation. Here strategy is planned, trends discussed, envelopes stuffed, speeches drafted. The team is incredibly young, impressively enthusiastic. They work all hours, sustained by cups of coffee and a touching faith in the cause. Leaflets and news sheets are churned out, punishing schedules devised, research carried out on the run. But at the heart of it all is the candidate and it is her impact on the elusive floating voters of Perth and Kinross that will determine the party's fortunes.

Elusive is just the word that springs to mind as the Lib Dem Volvo (the family car) hits Glenfarg, a pretty little village, deep in the Perthshire countryside. It is a sunny Monday afternoon, and there seems to be no one about, apart from our little team wearing smiles and yellow rosettes, which strides determinedly down the pavement. There are five of us — Derek and Alison, two Lib Dem aides, the visiting statesman, Sir David Steel, the candidate, and the husband. The houses of Glenfarg, with neat gardens and gravel paths, are set back from the road, and we have a strategy for covering as many as possible. Derek goes down a path and rings the bell, while

'I begin to realise what it must be like to be Denis Thatcher. I need a gin and tonic'



The candidate smiles, the husband stays out of sight

Alison heads for the next house. If Derek gets an answer he gestures Veronica over. Meanwhile Alison has checked out the next one. That is the theory. It falls apart almost immediately.

The trouble is that Glenfarg seems to be surprisingly fruit-

ful Lib Dem territory, and after the initial startled response, the introduction, and the gratifying double-take when Sir David appears, everyone wants to talk and talk takes time. A man on a ladder is a wavering Labour supporter and wants to know if the Lib Dems stand a chance. A mother with two small children is a potential convert from the Scottish Nationalists. Another man says he would happily vote Lib Dem but he's going to be in Amman on polling day, something to do with chicken-farming.

We bump into the AA van-driver who fixed our car the previous day, a natural supporter, except that he's registered in Fife. I had always imagined that these doorstep conversations were stilled, embarrassed affairs. Not at all. It's ending them that is the problem, and all this is destroying our finely-tuned schedule. A ferocious German shepherd dog hurls itself against a window, daring us to approach the door, which hurries things on. We retreat, late but happy. The Glenfarg visit is judged a success. Sir David claims to have detected what he calls "a buzz".

These days elections revolve less around the daily press conferences, ferocious affairs where marauding journalists, hungry for a story, attempt to trip the candidate up. Sitting at the back of Veronica's conference, I bite my fingernails as the hacks move in. The line they have decided on this morning is that her local credentials are irrelevant and she has nothing else to offer. Veronica flares up and delivers them a stern lecture along the lines that she knows the constituency rather better than they do, and is addressing the issues more directly than anyone else. There is a hint of passion. The hacks are impressed. So is the husband. He is within an ace of bursting into spontaneous applause.

As the candidate strides out of the room, followed by her retinue, he darts forward to collect a forgotten handbag. He has a role.

The prince who took on Schwarzkopf

As the Gulf War raged, there was also a battle between the generals

Never normally lost for words and accustomed to being in charge, General "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf was in an unusual dilemma over what to call the Saudi prince who had been appointed joint forces commander for the 1991 Gulf War campaign. "Should I treat you as a general or as a prince?" he asked.

"Both," replied His Royal Highness General Khaled bin Sultan, nephew of King Fahd and son of Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister.

So developed an extraordinary relationship between a four-star American general who arrived on Saudi soil at the head of the world's most sophisticated armed force to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait, and a Saudi prince with a Sandhurst background who had never fought a war.

Both men have produced

their memoirs. Schwarzkopf in 1992 with his book *It Doesn't Take a Hero*, and now this week it is the turn of Prince Khaled who in his version of the Gulf War, *Desert Warrior*, published yesterday (HarperCollins £25), tries to put the record straight, as he sees it, to remind the world that it was not just General Schwarzkopf who won the war. "None of the books published on the Gulf War have done justice to Saudi Arabia's massive contribution to victory," Prince Khaled says.

Throughout the five-month military build-up in the kingdom and the 42-day air and ground assault on the Iraqis launched by a coalition of 37 countries, Stormin' Norman and Prince Khaled, designated equal command status, strove to ensure that no one could be in any doubt about who was in charge. They both were. But they managed to create a chemistry upon which the success of the campaign depended.

Yet they had a number of ego clashes, often over protocol: if Schwarzkopf was sitting in a bigger chair, then Prince Khaled felt, for the sake of status and "face", and to underline that the Americans were not running the whole show — that it was necessary to have a chair of equal dimensions. And when he saw Schwarzkopf with a posse of personal bodyguards, he immediately matched it.

Prince Khaled also wanted it understood that Schwarzkopf should come to his office in the Riyadh war headquarters for the daily operational get-together, not the other way around. "By insisting that he came to me, I was sending a signal about our parallel commands," he says. "If I went,

everyone would suppose I was under his command.

"My worry was that Saudi Arabia would not retain its unique identity if it were seen to be passively under the US umbrella. I did not want a repeat in Saudi Arabia of what had happened in Vietnam and Korea where an American was the all-powerful supreme commander who could do what he liked."

In Prince Khaled's view, Schwarzkopf's book significantly underplayed the Saudi general's role, making it out as if he was just writing the cheques for the Americans to do the job. "Schwarzkopf and I worked extremely well together. I had enormous respect for him, but when he wrote his book, that wasn't the General Schwarzkopf I knew," he says. Prince Khaled believes he had the harder job. With Schwarzkopf it was all about

superpower might, commanding mostly Nato troops from 12 countries, while he had the job of organising and deploying 20,000 men from 23 disparate nations, ranging from 33,677 Egyptians to 481 soldiers from Niger. At the same time he had to keep the coalition of 37 countries working together and try to safeguard the cultural reputation of his country.

King Fahd had laid down guidelines that there was to be no singing or dancing when the troops were entertained. Yet Bob Hope was scheduled to arrive in Saudi Arabia with Brooke Shields and a troupe of cheerleaders from Texas. Prince Khaled told Schwarzkopf: "Bob Hope is very welcome but the others, no way."

Most of Prince Khaled's battles with Schwarzkopf were about eliciting secret information from his American partner. The Americans had reconnaissance satellites and two CIA spy planes monitoring Iraqi positions. But they only revealed what they thought Prince Khaled needed to know. "I did not expect Schwarzkopf to reveal his sources, but I needed to assess the whole military intelligence picture in order to draw up my own plans," he says.

One evening, Prince Khaled was given a US report of what Saddam Hussein had said at a meeting with his top commanders. "Are you sure these are Saddam's words?" he asked. "How do you know? What is your source?" Schwarzkopf replied: "If Saddam utters a word, we know about it."

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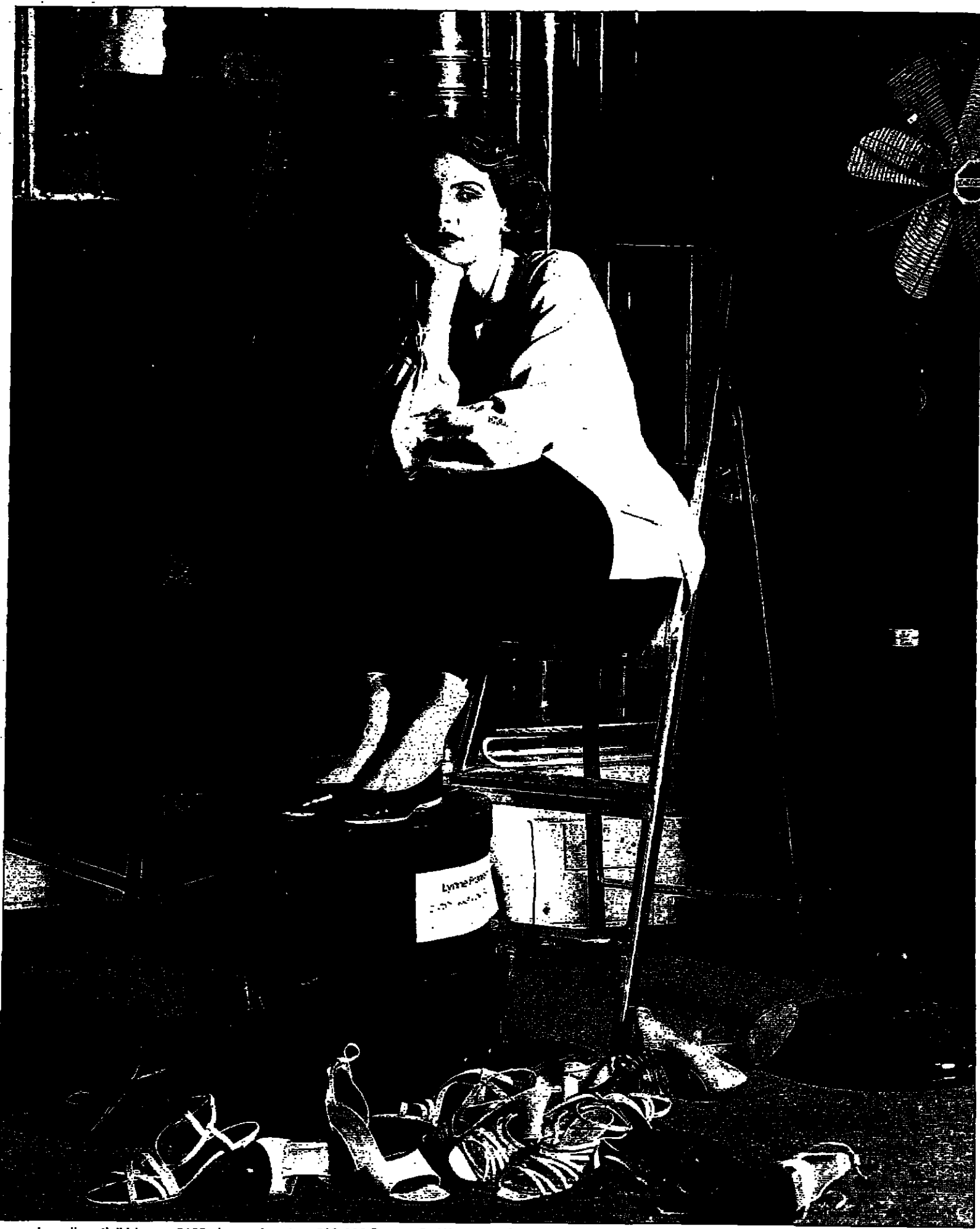
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Mannish suits, satin trousers, capri pants — the off-duty style of the great movie queens sets the scene

Off-screen glamour of Garbo and Garland



Camel knit blazer, £169, Aquascutum (0171-734 6090). White piqué shirt, £45, Ouiset (0171-580 0600). Champagne satin trousers, £49.99, Oasis (0171-377 5335). Brown/white shoes, £79, Sam Walker (Inquiries/mail order: 0171-240 7800). Gold sunglasses, £26.50, Fabris Lane, Harvey Nichols, SW1; Harrods, SW1 and leading department stores nationwide



Ivory "poet's" blouse, £139, Jaeger London, 200-206 Regent St, W1; Brown Thomas, 88-95 Grafton St, Dublin and selected branches nationwide (0171-494 2060). Black stretch capri pants, £39.99, Warehouse, 19-21 Argyle St, W1; 30 King St, Manchester and selected branches nationwide. Black leather ballet pumps, £25, Freed, 94 St Martins Lane, WC2 (0171-240 0432)

With their every move photographed and their love affairs making headlines, the super-model trinity have usurped Hollywood's heroines to become the modern icons of high glamour. And as the new breed of big screen actresses have rejected the star-making machine in an effort to be seen as serious actors, they have shed the flashy trappings which were so much a part of the job for Joan, Bette, Marlene and Greta. For the moment Tinseltown appears to have lost its famous sparkle.

Designers are unimpressed by the underplayed looks of Hollywood's latest female players. Fashion is full of references to the screen goddesses of the 1930s, 40s and 50s. The fabulous film frocks, designed (for the most part) by two costume designers, Edith Head and Adrian, still inspire. But it's not just the beaded gowns and slashed



Fashion
by
IAIN R.
WEBB

satin scene-stealers that are making a comeback. Yesterday's movie queens were as elegant off-screen as they were on. As fashion rediscovers the classics, their off-duty wardrobes are being plundered too.

This stylish sequel offers all the fashion greats. The mannish trouser suit with its neatly waisted short jacket and wide trousers, as worn by Katharine Hepburn. The classic double-breasted trouser suit which Greta Garbo might have modelled around the back lot at Paramount or MGM, now teamed with a skimpy knit top. There are the big shirt, cropped capri pants and flat ballet pumps which

were Judy Garland's practice uniform when she rehearsed her song and dance routines, and the knitted jacket, polo shirt and satin trousers recalling Marlene Dietrich — dark glasses a must.

These are images which are comfortable and carefree. Understated but still elegant. It is a look which works even better today, because you don't have to be a superstar to be able to afford it — all the clothes on this page are from high street stores. You don't even have to live an overly glamorous lifestyle to slip into a pair of strappy sandals or pull on a pair of satin trousers.

The Episode suit (right) is a smart choice for the office — the jacket can be worn with a slim, knee-length black skirt, the trousers work equally well with a little knitted slipover, or a great white shirt.

Capri pants are everywhere this summer. For a sexy evening look wear them with a black twinset or a shiny trench coat which just covers your bottom. Instead of ballet pumps choose a pair of high strappy sandals or patent mules, which slim the ankle.

No self-respecting wardrobe should be without a pair of satin trousers — either tailored and cigarette slim, or wide and soft. They epitomise 1990s glamour, at the same time managing to be casual and chic. They lend a daytime look an added touch of sheen and look especially good worn with knitwear. Dress them up with a matching satin jacket, or slinky halter top, for a totally knock-'em-dead effect.

Are you ready for your close-up now?



ABOVE RIGHT: Beige twill jacket, £199; matching trousers, £99, Austin Reed, branches nationwide (0800 585478). White cotton ribbed top, £24.99, Alexon, branches nationwide (01582 23131). Pearlised sunglasses, £79, Fabris Lane, as above. Cream shoes, £115, Russell & Bromley, selected branches

ABOVE: Beige waffle jacket, £199; matching trousers, £139, Episode (0171-589 5724). Black leather belt, £110, J&M Davidson, 62 Ledbury Rd, W11; Harvey Nichols, SW1. Black patent shoes, £69.99, Russell & Bromley, as above

Photographs by JONATHAN BOOKALLIL
Hair by Gordon Pindar Make-up by Mandy Winrow



● **QUEUE** for summer bargains of up to 50 per cent at the Joseph warehouse sale at 23 Pavilion Road, London SW3, which starts tomorrow at noon. Another designer clearing her stock room is Caroline Charles. Next Sunday, from 10am to 4pm, join the shoppers at Unit 3, Eelbrook Studios, 125 Moor Park Road, off Harwood Road, Fulham, London SW6. Prices start at £25.

● **THE** ballet slipper is being worn this season as a simple summer shoe. London's premier ballet stockist Freed, 94 St Martins Lane, London WC2, has a slipper priced at £21.99. Pied a Terre has taken the shoe a stage further and added a heel at £49.99. The shoe is available at branches nationwide.

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Age-old wisdom on the Bench

Frederick Lawton says it would be wrong to ban judges over 65

Whoever drafted Labour's policy document recommending that judges should retire at 65 can have had little understanding of the qualities of a good judge. It is surprising that Tony Blair, himself a barrister, should be willing to support the proposals.

Retiring judges at 65 would have three consequences. First, those best qualified for a judicial appointment might be unlikely to accept one. Secondly, the majority of judges would lack the build-up of experience that good judging requires. And thirdly, just as they were beginning to acquire that experience they would have to retire.

In England and Wales, becoming a judge marks the end of a career as a practising lawyer. Until recently, only barristers could become judges. Now solicitors can too. This is in contrast to France, where graduates join a judicial service on leaving university, starting as court clerks and working through the grades until they become judges.

It has been the English tradition to appoint to the Bench barristers of experience, who have usually been in practice for between 25 and 35 years. Those chosen are aged somewhere between their late forties to their late fifties. Well qualified lawyers in this age-bracket are likely to be earning large fees. At the younger ages they will only just have started doing so.

Appointment to the Bench will mean a considerable drop in income, and this may come at an inconvenient time for those with children to educate. In the past, anyone in this position who was offered appointment to the Bench had to balance this against the advantages which went with becoming a judge — security of tenure until 75 (or 72 in the case of a circuit judge) and the right to retire on full pension after 15 years' service. But in 1991, Parliament decided that only those with 20 years' service would qualify for a full pension. This meant that anyone appointed to the Bench after the age of 50 could not earn one. This has already reduced the attraction of a judicial appointment for lawyers over 50 with large practices.

If the Labour document were implemented, the attraction would be even less. Few lawyers have gained enough experience to justify judicial appointment before 45. Anyway, judicial pensions have lost some of their lure, since successful lawyers nowadays can out of income make financial provisions for retirement pensions which are better than those that judges receive.

Those who are to consider this policy document should remember that judges are not mere referees doing no more than blow the judicial equivalent of a whistle when a litigant offends against a rule. They have to assess evidence. When doing so, they have to apply their knowledge of how the world works and the likely reactions of those who live in it. How are they to acquire this knowledge? They will have

acquired some whilst practising the law. Those who have practised in the criminal courts will know something of the ways of thieves, but probably little of those of businessmen. Commercial lawyers may never have had to assess the evidence of a child witness. As judges they may have to deal with all kinds of cases, and they will learn how to do so by long experience.

There is a saying among judges that during his first five years after appointment, the newcomer to the Bench should remember that he knows little about his job and that during the next five years he thinks he knows a lot but doesn't. It is only after ten years that he can consider himself reasonably competent. A judge appointed in his early 50s, as most judges are, would not be on top of his work until he was over 60 and in sight of retirement at 65.

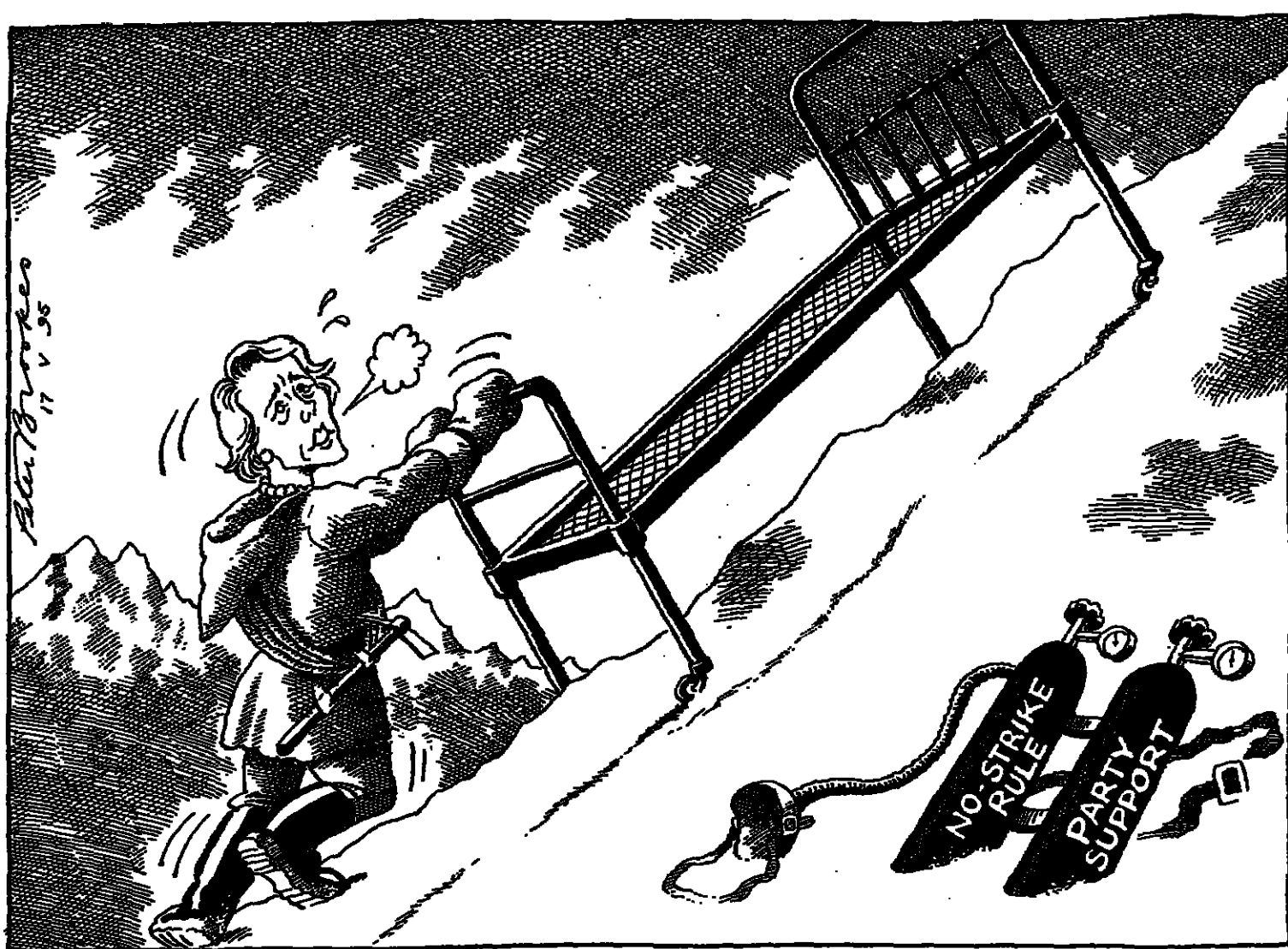
The conscientious judge — and most are — is aware that he learns more about his job every day he sits. He never stops learning. Time and time again he says to himself, after making a decision with which he is not entirely satisfied, "I'll never do that again". As the years go by, the memory acquires a larger and larger store of judicial "don'ts". Provided a judge has good health, particularly good mental health, he is likely to become a better judge as he gets older. The two best judges in my professional lifetime, the Scottish Lord Reid and Lord Denning, both delivered some of their best judgments when well into their seventies. What a loss to jurisprudence there would have been had they been obliged to retire at 65.

As a Lord Justice of Appeal, I had the privilege of sitting with Lord Denning. I was 60 when I went to the Court of Appeal. I had been a High Court judge for 11 years. Lord Denning was about 68. Every time I sat with him I learnt more about judging.

The draftsmen of the Labour document will have had their reasons for suggesting retirement at 65. They may have had memories of elderly, rude or eccentric judges. There have been such in the past, and may be some now. They are a minority. Nowadays there are satisfactory ways of dealing with them, of which the most effective is the disapproval of their brethren. Those who behave badly almost certainly will have begun doing so before 65.

There remains, however, the problem of the judge whose health, particularly his mental health, breaks down. This is more likely to occur after the age of 65 than before. Unfortunately, when this happens he may not be aware of his declining loss of competence, and have no one to tell him of it. Compulsory retirement at 65 is a crude way of dealing with this problem. It could better be dealt with by requiring all judges over that age to submit to an annual medical examination.

Sir Frederick Lawton was a Lord Justice of Appeal, 1972-86.



LONIE WOMAN'S UPHILL STRUGGLE WITHOUT OXYGEN

MPs need proper jobs

Members of Parliament should represent something more than just a place

The Nolan committee was too timid. It should have suggested that the pay of Members of Parliament be cut by two-thirds and converted into an attendance allowance. They should all have outside jobs or be sponsored by outside interests. That is the way to modernise Parliament, update democracy and stop corruption.

The British constitution is a curious box of tricks. For years nothing happens and then you accidentally hit the magic button and it biffs you in the face. John Major and Sir Robin Butler thought they were smart in coming up with Lord Nolan. This mild man and his anodyne committee would calm frayed nerves and end the latest bout of sleaze silliness. There would be no Scott inquiry nonsense.

Yet after just three months, Lord Nolan has blithely begun to rewrite the British constitution. While Sir Richard Scott staggers through his undergraduate essay on the fallibility of human nature, Lord Nolan has picked up the mantle of Lord Franks. He wants to put the work of MPs and ministers under extra-parliamentary scrutiny. He wants to diminish the power of ministerial patronage and oversee public appointments. David Hunt, the minister who contemptuously rejected this in his evidence to Nolan, is nursing a nasty black eye.

So is Mr Major. For some reason he made Nolan's a standing rather than an *ad hoc* committee. His lordship is enjoying himself. He has hit on an important truth: the lack of a written document need not render the British constitution inert, quite the opposite. It can be changed overnight by a cunning judge. Having scored some flesh wounds on the body politic, Lord Nolan has acquired a taste for blood. He was particularly impressed at his hearings by evidence of public cynicism over party funding and the honours system. These would make good subjects for his next study.

Downing Street is appalled. Give Nolan anything else — health authorities, local council corruption, House of Lords scandals, the Freemasons, the City of London, gays in the armed forces, Church of England property, royal warrants, anything but party funding. Any British institution can be tossed off the back of the political sleigh to appease Nolan's wolves. Only save that veiled virgin beloved of every party leader, secret funding.

This is hopeless. If the murkier corners of politics are to be illumined, then the source of money flowing into party coffers is of far more legitimate public concern than the temptations of individual MPs or ministers. In a spirited but unconvincing defence of the status quo in yesterday's *Independent*, the former Tory fundraiser Lord McAlpine tried to maintain that secret funding is the essence of liberty and the bastion of democracy. That might be plausible if donations were paid into escrow for the benefit of all parties, with their origin unknown to the recipients. That is not the case with either Tory or Labour accounts. It is hard to imagine anything more corrupting than party cash handed over in secret, whether from a property dealer, an Arab prince or a banker desperate for a peerage.

What Nolan has clearly done is open Pandora's box without much idea of how to shut it. Out is popping one horror after another. What he has yet to reveal is his definition of representational interests in British politics. The House of Commons is still based on a medieval tradition that geographical propinquity is the only interest requiring representation in Parliament. On this basis, a mountain of nonsense has been piled, not least the notion that the "profession" of an MP is to look after his or her constituents. If an MP worked solely on this basis he would soon lose the whip, and probably his sanity.

Parliamentarians since Burke have argued for a weak "representational" view of the MP, rather than a strong "delegate" role. But this is merely a way of saying that MPs recognise a variety of loyalties, of which the chief nowadays is to the party under whose label they were elected and elected. Another is to an occupational or other lobby. Lawyers care about the law, farmers about agriculture, women MPs about women, black MPs about blacks. Nolan did not ban such interests, demanding only that they be open and not include working

Simon Jenkins

career. MPs are not "running the country" but aspiring to do so, either under the watchful tutelage of the whips or belligerently rebelling against it.

Riddell and others have argued for a "widening" of the basis of MP selection, even as it steadily narrows. The intention is the admirable one of bringing into government people with experience of industry, commerce and the professions. There is only one way to do this, which is to end the pretence that listening to debates, attending committees and voting the whip is a proper, full-time job. The way to broaden the basis of political representation is to ensure that MPs have declared and paid outside interests, distinct from their formal constituencies. Already some 150 MPs have almost full-time jobs in government. The remaining 500 should all have almost full-time jobs outside it. If that job is to "represent" an interest group, so much the better.

American democracy is now re-examining the geographical basis of the franchise. Ethnic groups want congressional districts gerrymandered to protect their interest in Washington and state capitals. They

want traditional, territorial democracy to be cross-hatched by associational democracy. Groups want to be heard in the counsels of the nation not by the chance of geography but by ethnic or occupational identity. If the normal franchise does not yield the influence they seek, they will find other ways to subvert the legislature, or resort to direct action. Geography alone no longer answers to the needs of the political marketplace.

The House of Commons need not go that far. But the professionalisation of politics has made MPs poor scrutineers of government and poor representatives of those affected by government's doings. They are too eager to be noticed for preference, or they are polarised in a stage-managed opposition. Parliament played no part in averting the two great legislative fiascos of the past decade, the poll tax and railways acts. It did not possess either the structure or the expertise to scrutinise them. It was simply useless.

Parliament will atrophy if it limits its scope to representing territory. Few decisions of government affect specific parts of the country. They affect sectors of the economy or groups in society. This gives rise to "virtual constituencies": mortgage holders, builders, brewers, teachers, trade unionists, dog owners, single parents, the handicapped. They have their lobbyists and some have sympathetic, even salaried MPs. This should be the norm not the exception. Thus David Harris would represent St Ives and the fishing industry; Peter Hain, Neath and the Post Office; Tessa Jowell, Dulwich and community care.

If such interests feel the advocacy worthwhile, and many clearly do, they should pay for it. They should sponsor MPs. That is not corruption. Backbench MPs have no power over decision. It is an updating of representative democracy to cover affinity groups. Tocqueville would have approved.

Members of Parliament will never go out and find jobs unless they are forced to do so. They must be made to end their culture of dependency on state salaries and become self-employed, as they were until the 1960s. Like their constituents, they should earn their living by finding work. Lord Nolan should give the constitution, and the Prime Minister, another nasty shock.

Alan Coren



Freedom of information is fine, but this is a bit rich

Believe me, the last thing I want is to harrow up thy soul. I am not in the business of freezing thy young blood. My contract does not require me to make thy two eyes, like stars, start from their spheres. But I have a tale to tell which would make Hamlet's father run shrieking from the room, and not only is this the one place I have to tell tales, it is also the one place where this particular tale has to be told, if an end is ever to be put to the telling of tales like this.

On Monday night, I sat at dinner beside a man I have known for many years. At no moment in any of those years had I found him to be anything, but so ineffably sunny as to make me wish that I, too, had chosen the uplifting trade of extruded plastics rather than the downpouring one of extruded humour. Until Monday. On Monday, what sat beside me was a broken reed, mute, sour of puss, picking at food he would once have gobbled, draining furiously glasses he would once have savoured.

I did not, of course, inquire. True friends do not. They wait. He may, after all, have believed himself to be struggling manfully with his private grief, hoping no one would spot the ravages wreaked by the fled wife, the imprisoned son, the dodgy cardiogram, or whatever else it was that had so patently knocked him sideways, and it would have only compounded his suffering to have let on that I had spotted it. Anyway, I reckoned I wouldn't have to wait long. I know a bit about extroverts, however crestfallen. And sure enough, as the cheese came round, he cracked: he raised his hollow eyes from his untucked Stilton, and asked me whether I had read Sunday's papers.

I said yes, though not every word, why did he ask? He said I wouldn't have said that if I had read every word, because I would have read the words about him. Which words? I said, and, sotto voce, he told me.

He had been outed. Without his consent, his chosen way of life, notwithstanding his every effort at a privacy and decorum designed to conceal it, had been laid open to the public gaze. A public gaze, moreover, which would make it impossible for that life ever to be the same again: a scant 24 hours had passed since the story had broken, but already people he had never known were gazing at him, while people he had always known were trying not to. For all had seen his photograph, read the words beneath, and were thus able to identify him, as *The Sunday Times* had done, as one of the 500 richest millionaires in Britain.

Good God, I cried. I never dreamt, who would have guessed, you look so, er, normal, sorry, forgive me. I'm not sure what to say, it's knocked me back a bit, but it must be a relief to have it all out in the open at last, perhaps you should wear a badge with RICH PRIDE on it, ha-ha...

It was not what he wanted to hear. His house, he said, was now swarming with the men required to turn it into a fortress, both his daughters-in-law had rung up with hysterical demands for him to foot the bill for the bodyguards essential to a grandchild's education, factoryfuls of extruders had let it be known that their bread wished to be dipped in all his gravy they had cut a long story short, the rest of his life was doomed to be spent attempting to hand off dealers, brokers, spongers, unknown relatives, cats' homes, fringe groups, and dodgy schemers, villains and shysters of every sort, never mind all manner of madmen bent on setting this unequal world to rights by emptying their automatics into the egregiously heeled.

I did not know what to say, and I knew it even less when he looked hard at me and said: "You're with News International, can't you get them to print something?" "You mean," I said, "along the lines of: In last week's *Sunday Times*, due to a printing error, we stated that Mr X was worth fifty million pounds. This should have read fifty pounds. We wish to apologise for any embarrassment or inconvenience?" "Terrific!" he said. "What would it cost?"

The rich are different from you and me. Whether, mind, my hebdomadal colleagues will take this sympathetically on board and jack in their mischievous annual enterprise, I cannot say. I just tell the tale.

Mighty tome?

THE GOVERNMENT keeps its own record of the peccadilloes of Tory MPs, locked in a safe in the House of Commons. A television documentary to be shown on BBC2 this Sunday reveals that there is a "dirt book" in which sleazy behaviour is set down.

The programme, entitled *Westminster's Secret Service*, examines the activities of the whips in political parties and confirms the existence of the dirt book with quotations from former Conservative Party whips.

Viscount Whitelaw, who was once Chief Whip, acknowledges the book's existence and is quoted in the documentary. "It's a place where you had to write about varying things that you knew or heard about people," he says.

Michael Cockerell, the programme's reporter, says former whips were notoriously reluctant to talk of the activities of the whips' office. The Tory Chief Whip, Richard Ryder, refused to participate. And when one of his fellow whips, Andrew Mitchell, heard that the Heritage Secretary, Stephen Dorrell (a former whip), is to appear on the programme, he reportedly called him a traitor.

"The whips' office really is the nerve-centre of the Tory party," says Cockerell. "And this film confirms the existence of the 'dirt book' on the private lives of Tories."

Michael Dobbs, whose fictional Chief Whip Francis Urquhart was every inch the Machiavellian master of his trade, said he did not know of the existence of such a record. "But the Whips' Office is a parliamentary social service. Trou-

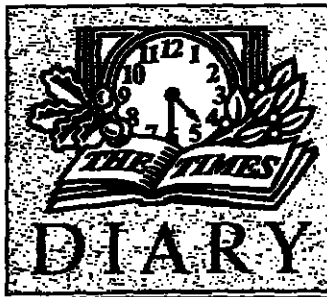
bled MPs are able to lean on the supportive shoulders of whips who offer help on financial and emotional problems," he said. "Records would have to be kept for them to work properly."

● Sir Thomas Ingilby, founder of the aristocratic burglary deterrent, *Stately Homes Hotline*, is leaving little to tempt intruders at his Yorkshire seat, Ripley Castle. The spiralling cost of maintaining the castle has forced the sale of his family's archives dating back to the mid 12th century, for £130,000.

Drive my car

NEWS ARRIVES of a specialist group of soap opera aficionados: the Higgs Appreciation Society, named after Mr Higgs, Jack Woolley's chauffeur in *The Archers*. Higgs has spoken only twice in the Radio 4 serial, which has run for more than 40 years, but the society was planning to celebrate its AGM last night at the New Inn, Crawley in Oxfordshire (renamed the Cat and Fiddle for the occasion).

"We are anticipating that delegates from Ghana and Sweden will attend," the retiring president Rupert Boulting informed the official fan club, Archers Addicts, before the event. "As usual, the two recorded moments when Higgs



spoke [when Mr Woolley tore a strip off him after the chrysanthemum incident, and after the post office raid] will be replayed for detailed analysis." Then comes a talk entitled "Higgs, the Man behind the Enigma", with Morris dancers providing entertainment.

Proof indeed

RICHARD BRANSON was sporting an even wider grin than usual at the Kensington Roof Gardens on Monday. He was launching Virgin Vodka, which he claims is so pure it is hangover-proof. For his sake, I hope so, for the testing card pinned to his chest revealed that he had already tucked away nine cocktails for the occasion.

He was in confessional mood. "This is the first time I've really been on the vodka. I'm normally a

beer and wine man," he said. "I do get hangovers. A fry-up and lots of sleep are good as a cure. The worst ones are when I've mixed drink and cigarettes. I don't do it for three months and then I have a binge, usually when I'm in a group of people I don't know and I get nervous." We all know that feeling.

Bottom line

FEW FANS of Blackburn Rovers, currently celebrating their first championship title in 81 years, have suffered so much for their team as Tory backbencher Sir Rhodes Boyson. The former minister and headmaster says he failed his 11-plus because of the Rovers.

"Blackburn were playing at home," recalls Sir Rhodes, who celebrated his 70th birthday last week. "I handed in my paper half an hour before the end of the exam so that I could get to the match in time. And that half-hour cost me the exam." The importance of education was painfully brought home to him by his father.

Family ties

BEFORE HE ties the knot with Gemma Goldsmith, Imran Khan might care to study the bloody history of relations between his fian-



Richard the Lionheart

cée's family and Islam. One of her ancestors became a national hero for putting the infidel to the sword. Gemma is a direct descendant — separated by a mere 27 generations — of King John. That makes her an ancestral niece of his brother, Richard the Lionheart, who led the Third Crusade in the 12th century which failed to recapture Jerusalem but succeeded in slaughtering a mountain of Saladin's cohorts.

P.H.S



THE TAX TRAP

Labour lacks the courage of its convictions

Britain has never suffered from quite the visceral distrust of government that has been widespread in the United States. But the standing of government is certainly falling in this country and taxation is starting to become a proxy for everything that is bad about it. Both main parties have lost the trust of voters on tax; and it is now a political commonplace that no party can win an election unless it undertakes not to raise taxes. Even then, an increasingly sceptical electorate may not believe the pledge.

This year an extra 500,000 people will pay income tax. As Labour seeks to emphasise its own fiscal responsibility, it is clear that tax is now an acute issue for both parties. The middle classes have turned against the Tories in part because of higher taxes. Yet despite reneging on their tax promises, the Tories still set the taxation agenda. Labour wants to be seen to adopt the same financial constraints as the Government.

Today Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will try to reassure the City that Labour would borrow no more than the Conservatives. This might be another small step on the party's ascent back to economic respectability. "Brown's laws" would not, however, constrain the Shadow Chancellor's ability to raise taxes and to spend more; if anything, they increase the chance of higher taxes. Once higher borrowing is ruled out and the economy is producing near its full potential, extra spending can be financed only by higher tax rates.

If each party is determined to keep borrowing under control, then they will both have to match their spending to their tax plans. In other words, as Norman Lamont recently pointed out, tax cuts for the Tories would have to be financed by spending cuts. Realistically, that means sizeable reductions in spending on health, education, defence or social security. Attempts to cut down on waste or fraud — the last refuge of windy politicians — will never produce the savings needed for proper tax cuts.

So for the Conservatives, there are big political decisions to be made. The more spending is cut, the more it hurts. Will people vote for a few hundred pounds more in their wage packet if it may mean that their children will be taught in a class of 40 or their local hospital will close? A Government with a small majority, a weak leader and a nervous parliamentary party may not have the stomach for such radical measures.

But Labour too has some difficult political manoeuvring ahead. There is no point in it offering tax cuts; to distinguish itself from the Tories, it has to put a higher value on public spending. Yet the implication of Mr Brown's stance so far is that he would stick to whatever fiscal stance was bequeathed by the Tories. Quite apart from sounding passive and unimaginative, this also allows the Conservatives to set a trap for Labour.

Mr Brown is in thrall to the conventional wisdom that the British will never vote for higher taxes. Tax was certainly one of the policies that lost Labour the last election. But that was largely because the tax rises were painfully concentrated on a relatively small number of people — many of whom were either floating voters or opinion-formers. Then the spending for which the extra tax revenue was promised — higher child benefit and pensions — was very thinly spread and did not seem an adequate reward.

In some areas of local government, opposition parties have persuaded people to vote for higher taxes provided that the services offered in return are attractive enough. If it could connect unpopular taxes with popular spending, a Labour government might be able to do the same nationally. People cannot, for instance, improve the education their children receive in state schools by spending a little of their own money. Nor can they furnish their hospitals with more beds. Does Labour have the courage of its convictions? If it wants to provide better public services, it will have to ask voters for more money.

HOWARD'S DISCLOSURE

The Home Secretary's proposals deserve support

On each occasion that Michael Howard has sought an improvement in the criminal justice system, he has succeeded in provoking an overheated reaction. His proposals for the modulation of a defendant's right to silence, and for the establishment of a national computerised DNA database, both gave rise in their time to a storm of ill-justified complaint. The Home Secretary's latest plans for change in the way the law on disclosure operates in criminal trials — announced yesterday in a consultation paper — are likely also to reap the inevitable harvest. Yet the thrust of his proposals is unexceptionable, and their implementation would give new strength and credibility to criminal justice.

According to Mr Howard's proposed reforms, the defence would be required to provide sufficient details of its case to the prosecution, and to disclose its line of argument, before the trial stage. The prosecution, on the other hand, would be protected from demands to furnish voluminous quantities of evidence to the defence: this evidence can often be sensitive, such as the identity of informants. The Home Secretary's aim, as he told Parliament yesterday, is to ensure that the guilty are convicted by making it impossible for the defence to "ambush" the prosecution at a late stage in the trial with hitherto undisclosed evidence.

By stripping the defence of its considerable editorial control of the evidence in a trial, Mr Howard has not, as some have suggested, undermined the cornerstone of the criminal justice system. As Viscount Sankey once put it in the House of Lords in 1935, "throughout the web of the English

Criminal Law one golden thread is always to be seen, that it is the duty of the prosecution to prove the prisoner's guilt...". If Mr Howard has his way, the evidential burden on the defence will increase but the burden of proof will still rest firmly with the prosecution. The standard of proof would be unaffected: criminal cases would still have to be proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

Even though the adversarial system is cherished, there is much that is wrong with it, particularly in criminal trials. There is the risk — all too considerable in an area of such public concern — that the most effective advocate, rather than the truth, will triumph in the end. Mr Howard's reforms would result in more disclosure before trial and thus in a more dialectic system of proof. Section 9 of the 1987 Criminal Justice Act is an example of how the purity of our adversarial system has already been modified: in the case of serious fraud trials, the judge may order both defence and prosecution to disclose their case at a preparatory hearing.

The imbalance in criminal cases between the prosecution's duty to disclose, and that of the defence, is increasingly regarded as a barrier to securing entirely deserved convictions in complex cases. Mr Howard is simply asking that the changes already wrought in regard to fraud cases be extended to the entire swath of criminal law. There is widespread disillusion with a situation where the presumption of innocence can often mean that the defence has the licence to take the prosecution totally by surprise. The Home Secretary is in touch with reality: there is no reason to resist the imposition on the defence of a duty to disclose.

MARCH TOWARDS ZERO

Three times three cheers for the power of simple curiosity

Senator William Proxmire, a scourge of waste, used to nominate each month for a "Golden Fleece" award the project he considered the most spendthrift use of the federal dollar. One winner was a project, costing \$107,000, into the sexual behaviour of the Japanese quail. The American physicist who yesterday announced that they had cooled rubidium atoms to within 200 billionths of a degree of absolute zero must be grateful that Senator Proxmire and his beady eye have long retired.

At first sight, the project does indeed appear as quixotic as calculating pi to millions of decimal places. It may be fun to do, but is it the sort of fun the State should pay for? And why stop 200 billionths of a degree before reaching absolute zero?

Deciding what sort of science the public purse should pay for has long been a difficult art. In Britain, emphasis has switched towards more directed research, and the Office of Science and Technology has recently completed a lengthy process of Technology Foresight, aimed at identifying the key technologies that will create wealth and improve the quality of life next century. It is unlikely that any of the OST's expert committees pointed to the search for absolute zero as a vital ingredient in Britain's scientific portfolio.

Yet such is the uncertainty of science that we cannot really know, at the moment of discovery, how important any finding may be. When asked what use his inventions were,

Michael Faraday, the discoverer of electricity, replied: "What use is a newborn baby?" The danger of initiatives like Technology Foresight, well-intentioned as they may be, is that of overplanning, of replacing the researcher's simple curiosity with the viewpoint of the bureaucrat or the manager.

The physicists who proclaimed a new step on the march towards absolute zero have their eyes on a different target. They want to create a form of matter never before seen, in which atomic individuality blurs into a kind of quantum soup. This form of matter, the Bose-Einstein state, was predicted in the 1920s and several groups are competing to create it first. Work of such fundamental importance needs no further justification, even though it may also produce some technological benefits in superconductivity and the accurate measurement of time.

That is why it is reassuring to read in the review of British science published yesterday by the Director-General of the Research Councils, Sir John Cadogan, that the proper role of science and engineering must be the training of highly skilled men and women and the conduct of research at the frontiers of knowledge. These people, Sir John asserts, cannot be turned into "short-term problem-solvers for industrial customers". The individual eye of the researcher is still the best judge of what matters, be it the sex life of the quail or the behaviour of atoms on the brink. Long live the power of simple curiosity.

Nurses' ballot on 'no-strike' policy

From Mr Roy Lilley

Sir, Today's decision of the Royal College of Nursing conference to ballot its members on whether to end their "no-strike" policy is industrial relations madness: the leaders of the RCN appear to have been frozen by events, unable to offer leadership or policy.

In what cause are the nurses working the sick and vulnerable? Are they poorly paid? Contrary to the statement in your leading article today, they are not. Since 1979, allowing for inflation, they have enjoyed a salary increase of 71 per cent; over the past six years, while average salaries in the economy have increased by 49 per cent, those of nurses have risen by 57 per cent.

According to the 1995 Social Trends Survey, nurses have enjoyed the highest increase in earnings since 1971 of any recognised work group — over 120 per cent in real terms — and are the only group to have increased their ranking in the table of gross weekly earnings by more than two places.

Qualified nurses can expect to be paid between £12,000 and £25,000, depending on their age, qualifications and experience. Plenty of young people are entering the profession.

Nurses complain that as we have a National Health Service everyone should be paid national rates. But it is not a national service: it is a national mission — services, free at the point of need — and there it ends. NHS services are commissioned locally, provided in local trusts by staff drawn primarily from a local labour market.

Pay must therefore be determined locally. If nurses work to rule and refuse administrative tasks, services will be damaged, patients will suffer and public support will melt away.

Perhaps, underlying the RCN's tactics, is their leaders' knowledge that if pay is determined locally their role as a national trade union will be diminished.

Yours,

ROY LILLEY
(Chairman, Federation of NHS Trusts' Standing Committee on Human Resource Issues, 1993-95),
Maywood, 10 Ashwell Avenue,
Cambridge, Surrey,
May 16.

From Mrs D. G. M. Wilson

Sir, In the title of your first leader today, "The local nurse", lie the seeds of discontent. Why not the "local doctor", or the "local administrator"? Nurses have been singled out unfairly and feel aggrieved over the 3 per cent award to doctors, as compared to the 1 per cent for nurses. They are not a militant profession and feel they will lose out in local negotiations.

It is your throw-away admission of the fact that "they are not very well paid" which lies at the heart of the matter. That is the reason why the nurses are being compelled to take action.

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN WILSON,
Foxhill, 70 Long Road,
Framingham Earl, Norwich, Norfolk.
May 16.

BBC standards

From Mr Mark Thompson

Sir, I should like to reassure your correspondents (letters, May 10) that BBC Television has no intention of reducing its commitment to major science and documentary programming.

Despite the adjustments we have made to our programme plans in the light of the BBC's overall cash budgets, we will nevertheless be making more factual programmes this year and next year than in previous years.

BBC Television has no intention of playing "to the lowest of public taste". Nor does it hold science in any "cynical disregard".

We have already increased the number of science programmes on BBC Television over the past two years: the number will increase further in 1995 and 1996.

Our recent coverage of Science Week, BBC2's current season of programmes on mental health, and a number of major new science documentaries — including series written and presented by eminent scientists like Steve Jones and Oliver Sacks — are all eloquent testimony to our commitment in this vital area.

Yours faithfully,
MARK THOMPSON
(Head of Factual Programmes,
BBC Television),
BBC Television Centre,
Wood Lane, W12.
May 12.

Crossed line

From Lord Beloff

Sir, Mr Matthew Parris (column, May 10) is wrong. "C'est magnifique mais ce n'est pas la guerre" was not said about Keble College but about Worcester College, for two good reasons. Worcester College is on the way to Oxford station which Keble College is not. And Worcester College resembles French railway stations in having a clock on its facade. Not so Keble.

Yours truly,
BELOFF,
House of Lords.
May 10.

Business letters, page 29

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Nolan's first reflections on propriety in public life

From Dr David Starkey

Sir, Peter Riddell predicts (May 12) that Lord Nolan will become the next Lord Franks. If so, it bodes ill for British political life. For the "seven commandments" (otherwise known as the "seven principles of public life") of the Nolan committee (details, May 12) do not stand up to a moment's scrutiny.

Nolan claims that his "commandments" apply to everybody in public life. Actually they apply to nobody. What, for instance, is a civil servant doing exercising leadership? And who in their right mind would expect a party politician to be objective? While if selflessness is to be required, what will happen to that driving ambition which is needed for anyone, politician or civil servant, to get to the top?

Archbishop Laud put this approach into proper perspective 350 years ago when he wrote in a letter to Thomas Wentworth in 1633 that "this conceit... of... none caring for any [private] ends so the king may be served is but a branch of Plato's Commonwealth which flourishes this day nowhere but in Utopia".

The real indictment of British public life is not "sleaze", which Nolan himself considers to be trivial in its incidence, but that notions of "public service" in the abstract, which are either silly or sinister, pass for wisdom.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STARKEY,
The London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2.
May 14.

From Mr G. M. Wedd

Sir, I am a non-political citizen: as I read the report of the Seven Deadly Virtues that Lord Nolan thinks candidates for public office should possess, I realised three things.

1. I could never presume to stand for any office (in the unlikely event of being asked to do so).
2. The people who think they possess these virtues are the very last people who ought to be elected.
3. I wish to be represented by a man

Nuclear sale

From Ms Andrea Cook

Sir, My response to Michael Heseltine's decision (report, May 10) to abolish the nuclear levy and reduce electricity bills by an average of £20 per year is that the Government would be better advised to retain the levy to fund capital investment programmes to improve the energy efficiency of the UK's housing stock.

By adding VAT to domestic fuel in April 1994 — which added an extra £20 to electricity bills — the Government aimed to encourage energy efficiency. Mr Heseltine's transparent gesture will do nothing to support that aim and will fail in its efforts to convince consumers that they — and not shareholders — have been the beneficiaries of privatisation.

The Government's subsequent decision, to provide an extra £25 million funding for energy efficiency, is welcome. But when set within the context of the £1.2 billion per year raised through the nuclear levy it highlights both a lack of imagination and a missed opportunity to end fuel poverty in Britain.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREA COOK
(Director),
Neighbourhood Energy Action,
St Andrew's House,
90-92 Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
May 16.

From Professor Emeritus John Pick

Sir, Your leader today says that the prime motivation for the privatisation of the nuclear power industry — plugging the gap in the Government's income — may not be ideal. It adds that the best reason for privatisation is to allow companies the freedom to raise capital more efficiently on the private market.

There was a time when the debate on private v. public ownership of the public utilities was conducted on the basis of somewhat different criteria:

In 1873 Joseph Chamberlain was el-

(or woman) of average sensual failings, who may perhaps judge questions as I would do myself, and not by a set of Puritan priors who are convinced that they possess selflessness, integrity, objectivity, etc. There are some of those "tribunes of the people" in Parliament already, and a pretty sight they are.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE WEDD,
The Lodge, Church Hill,
High Limeton, Bristol, Avon.
May 12.

From Mr Colin H. Senior

Sir, While the broad thrust of the Nolan report is admirable, the committee has disappointingly chosen not to grasp the nettle on parliamentary consultations.

Many MPs earn multiples of their parliamentary salaries from these consultancies, and it is naive to suppose that their votes and influence will be unaffected by their major source of income. The consultancies are simply the selling of public privilege for private gain, and as such constitute an anachronism that should be stopped.

MPs should be paid a proper salary, so that the extra consultancy income is unnecessary. They should also be free to earn outside income, but only from sources unrelated to their parliamentary roles.

When the insidious practice of consultancies is finally ended (as eventually it will be), it will be seen by our grandchildren as being just as incongruous as, for instance, rotten boroughs now seem to us.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN H. SENIOR,
32 Wolverton Gardens, W6.
May 12.

From Sir Geoffrey Cox

Sir, MPs considering the report of the Nolan committee might find it useful to consider the actions of their predecessors in 1947, when faced with three problems of misconduct of Members, including one recorded as of an MP having "engaged in an affair with a member of the press gallery in the precincts".

Two MPs were reprimanded. A

third, Garry Alligan, was expelled from the Commons, and lost his seat, for having alleged that some MPs "gave confidential information to strangers when inebriated, and accepted money for giving such information to the press".

The Commons of that day did not turn to an outside committee or to an ombudsman to deal with these problems. They had an instrument to hand, in their own committee of privileges, and they used it firmly and swiftly. *The Annual Register of World Events* for 1947 comments: "The stern attitude of the House to erring Members and the prompt resignation of Mr Dalton after the premature disclosure of Budget proposals sustained the reputation of the House, particularly abroad".

That same instrument is available to Members of the House of Commons today. If they sub-contract to an ombudsman or to some other outsider the role of supervising their own conduct, they will not only show themselves unworthy successors to the men and women of the 1947 Parliament, but they will further impair the sovereignty of Parliament — something which will impair the freedom of us all.

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY COX
(Political Correspondent,
News Chronicle, 1945-54),
Amadines,
Cott St Dennis, Northleach,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
May 16.

From Mr David Reed

Sir, There is a simple way of ensuring that Members of Parliament are above suspicion in terms of their business activities. This would be to allow Members to continue only the paid activity/activities that they were engaged in at the date of their election to Parliament. There would then be no question of a Member benefiting from his/her position.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID REED,
Pickford, Pickford Lane,
Titchhurst, East Sussex.
May 15.

Rural power

From Councillor Wendy Humphries

Sir, Libby Purves hits the nail squarely on the head by identifying the tensions between the local desire for development and the wider interest in conservation ("Are locals the best choice for countryside curators?", May 10; see also letters, May 15). However, she goes wrong when she refers to the "40-year-old system whereby appointed boards oversee planning, land use, conservation and tourism".

Up to now, most of the national parks have been run by locally elected people — i.e. committees of county councils, with only a one-third leavening of national appointees. It is true that the Environment Bill will create independent authorities, but two thirds of the members will still be local elected members.

All the national park authorities have, over the years, done their best to reconcile the conservation of their special environment with public enjoyment and the interests of people who live and work in the parks. When the Bill becomes law it will spell out these ground rules even more clearly for the new independent authorities.

Better to fudge, surely, than to waste years of patient work by lurching precipitously in one of these directions to the exclusion of the others.

Yours faithfully,
W. HUMPHRIES
(Chair, National Parks Committee),
Association of County Councils,
Eaton House,
66a Eaton Square, SW1.
May 15.

Forbidden fruit

From Mr Henry James

Sir, Dr Trier writes (letter, May 4) most appreciatively from Denmark of the gratitude felt towards Britons who fought the Nazi tyranny and of the excitement and happiness when British soldiers arrived in Copenhagen 50 years ago.

There was also excitement when these Britons came back into Germany, since many arrived armed with copies of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, then strictly forbidden literature in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY JAMES,
St James's House,
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire.
May 5.

Don't bank on it

From Mr D. B. Jole

Sir, "Aiming to Keep Our Services Legendary" proclaimed the front page of the brochure sent to me by one of our leading high street banks. Bravo. It must be rare, unique perhaps, for a large company to admit its services are largely imaginary — disturbing, though, to think it means to keep them that way.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. JOLE,
The Old Vicarage Cottage,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
May 16.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.



Royal Naval facilities in HMS

The image shows a vertical strip of a document, possibly a page from a book or a form. On the left side, there is a dark, textured binding or cover. The main part of the image is a white page with faint, illegible text. The text appears to be organized into columns and rows, suggesting a form or a ledger. The overall image is very dark and grainy, making it difficult to read the specific content.

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Third life for Butlers Wharf

Butlers Wharf, on the south of the Thames by Tower Bridge, London, one of the most prestigious developments of the 1980s before the recession claimed it, is on the brink of being sold for the next stage in the regeneration of its 11-acre estate. The joint administrative receivers, Nigel Hamilton and Alan Bloom, of Ernst & Young, who were appointed in 1990 when Sir Terence Conran's grand design ran into trouble, have been asking for bids for the remainder of the estate, and a decision is likely to be taken in the next few days, with the agreement of Midland Bank.

The receivers, who decided on a "long-term" view of the estate, believe the first phase of regeneration is now complete. All but one of the 216 residential units are now occupied, all 21 retail units have been taken, and last month Saffron Wharf, 22,000 sq ft of flagship commercial space, was sold for around £2.2 million.

Several more buildings, including 19th-century warehouses, and other sites remain to be developed. The receivers, advised by Hillier Parker, believe that the next phase will be largely residential.

They have received firm bids both to buy the whole estate and to enter a joint venture with the bank.

A 1980s dream development is to be revived, Christopher Warman writes

as well as receiving offers for each of the individual buildings. Their preferred option is to sell the whole estate and they are now finalising their decision.

Bernard De Saulles, of Hillier Parker, says: "I am optimistic that we will have a sale."

It is 23 years since Butlers Wharf Limited ceased trading, having finally conceded that the London Dock would never return to their former glory. In the decline that followed, with wharves and warehouses left unoccupied or derelict, artists, including David Hockney, found large studio space, and the area's 19th-century warehouse character made it attractive to television and film-makers.

The estate was bought in 1984 by Terence Conran who had a vision for the "mixed-use" regeneration of the area at a time when property prices were soaring and develop-

ment booming. Under his ownership, Cinnamon Wharf and the Butlers Wharf building were converted into residential developments, and he was involved in the founding of the Design Museum, including the Mediterranean-style Blueprint Café. His plans then foundered in the late 1980s slump.

Since 1990, the receivers have embarked on their long-term strategy, opting to invest to maintain the standards of style and quality which had originally been envisaged in order to set Butlers Wharf apart from the competition.

Developments since then have included Terence Conran's return with his "Gastrodome" of restaurants and food stores in the Butlers Wharf building, beginning with Le Pont de la Tour in 1992, and subsequently the Cantina del Ponte and Chop House. In 1992 Butlers Wharf was sold to a Danish pension fund for more than £20 million, and continues to be managed by Butlers Wharf Company.

The Butlers Wharf estate, which links eastward towards Docklands proper, to London Bridge to the west, and looking across the river to the City, will have an estimated value of around £125-£130 million when completed.



Butlers Wharf: Terence Conran's place to shop, eat and live

MARKET MOVES

Business plaza for Leeds

PLANS for the first new-generation office complex in central Leeds, confirming the city's status as an important European regional capital, were unveiled last week by its joint developers, The British Land Company and Leeds City Development Company.

The Criterion Place scheme, on the site of the former Queens Hall, received planning consent in March for its 265,000 sq ft of offices, and has a master plan by Sir Norman Foster & Partners. The scheme will comprise three separate office buildings of five to 15 floors set around a covered plaza, which will provide public art, and a range of cafés, restaurants and shops.

Stephen Kalman, a director of The British Land Company, says: "By offering state-of-the-art office space in an unrivalled location, we are confident that Criterion Place will contribute substantially to Leeds's development as the UK's main northern business and financial services centre."

Joint agents for the scheme are Chesterton and Grimley.

WESTMINSTER City Council has granted planning consent for a £45 million indoor theme park to be developed within 100,000 sq ft of vacant office space in the Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus, London, by Burford Holding and Sega Europe.

The joint venture between Burford and Sega Europe, the European arm of the Japanese entertainment group, aims to build

Segaworld, Europe's largest indoor family theme park, which will include six main high-tech interactive rides, a carnival area and sports zone. The park is expected to open in summer 1996.

THE proposed £20 million Riverside Retail Park in Liverpool has been given the go-ahead by the Government.

The Secretary of State for the Environment has decided he does not wish to intervene in the granting of a planning application by Berkeley-CAP, which has been approved by the Merseyside Development Corporation. Work on the 200,000 sq ft park will begin as soon as a final technicality with the highway department has been settled.

KNIGHT Frank & Rutley has been appointed together with Eastdil, a New York real-estate investment bank, by the New York Port Authority to prepare a marketing plan for the possible sale of the New York Vista Hotel, the 820-room hotel located in the World Trade Centre.

The hotel reopened in November, 1994, after a \$65 million reconstruction and renovation programme following the bombing of the World Trade Centre in 1993.

George Marline, executive director of the port authority, which owns the hotel, said it was purchased in 1989 from Kuo Hotel Corporation to ensure the level of reinvestment required to allow it to compete with newer luxury hotels.

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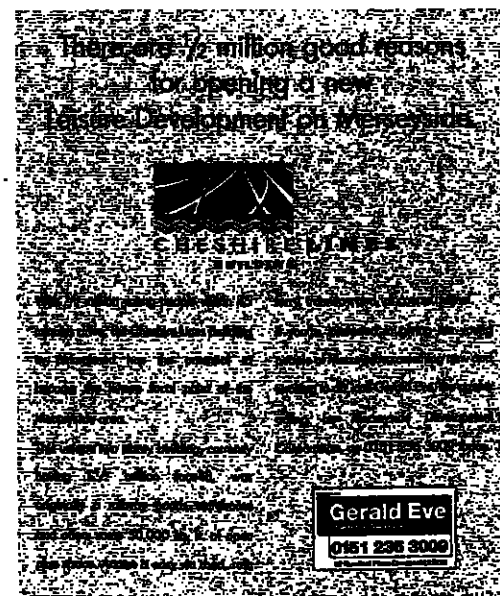
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GOOD

The magic's in the mixture

A more diverse
range of students is
going into higher
education, says

Tom Cannon

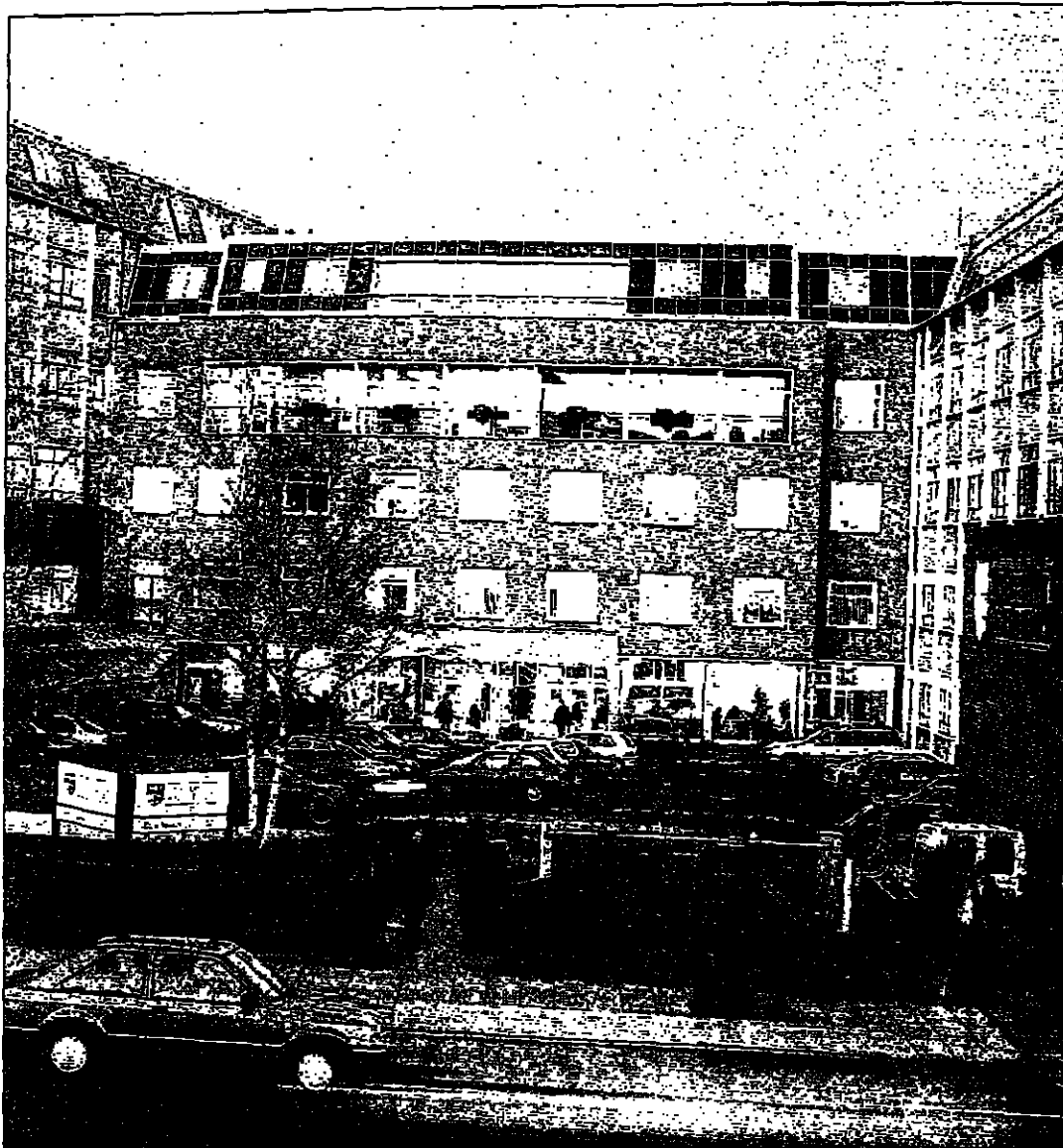
Over the past decade, university education has begun to serve a much wider section of the population. Tapping a population's educational potential is a national priority for most mature economies, and there has been surging demand for places. This, and the greater integration of the two streams of higher education, have transformed the university system over the past few years. The "diversity" rankings published here highlight some shifts in the profile of British higher education.

The tables identify five distinct features of diversity. These are the proportions of the student population that are: mature; members of ethnic minorities; female; from overseas, or recruited without traditional entry requirements. Each reflects a shift from the traditional UK student profile of 18 to 19-year-old, white males with A levels or Scottish Highers.

Increased access to mature students is important in a modern industrial society. At South Bank University, 86 per cent of students are over 21 on entry. Mature students are now in a majority in almost a quarter of universities. Institutions in London and the South East dominate the tables; and North London, Middlesex and East London are in the top ten.

Ethnic minorities are not well represented in UK universities. Half of those surveyed recruited fewer than 2 per cent of their students from ethnic minorities or did not know how many they recruited. But some, notably in London, have opened their doors to members of ethnic minorities. The only universities with more than a quarter of their students from ethnic minorities are in London and the South East.

South Bank, Thames Valley, Wolverhampton, Luton and other new universities are to the fore.



Luton, one of the new universities encouraging students with non-traditional entry qualifications

They are equally prominent in trying to encourage students with non-traditional entry qualifications to study at university. Many have started access courses, catering usually for people with no other qualifications.

Besides these programmes, universities encourage people with vocational qualifications to take up places at university. Thames Valley, Teesside and the University of Central England now draw half their students from this group.

Tackling the gender bias in

higher education has been a priority for universities and the Government for many years. In about a third of the British universities, women make up at least half the student population. Universities with large education or professional-studies programmes are prominent in the top ten, while the older universities with big engineering schools are under-represented.

In previous editions of *The Good University Guide*, the proportion of international students has been included in the main rankings to

highlight the university community's cosmopolitan nature and the high world standing of UK universities. The greater emphasis on diversity suggests that this ranking stands more naturally as a measure of diversity.

The approach to gathering data on diversity is slightly different from collecting the other material included in *The Times* rankings. No figure was given for our estimate of the university's position. Most universities responded with their estimates for the categories

identified. All variables are given the same weight in constructing the overall ranking.

There was, however, a major problem in gathering information on the socio-economic background of students. Only ten institutions could provide figures. Universities are often criticised for their failure to recruit successfully from socio-economic groups D and E. Not long ago, it was said that the UK's universities were paid for by the working classes for the benefit of the middle classes. Rebutting this criticism is a key step in building a diverse, high-quality, mass higher-education system.

Based on the criteria used in *The Times* guide, South Bank, Thames Valley and East London are the most diverse universities in the UK. When socio-economic background is included, for those institutions responding, Staffordshire leads.

Scotland's most diverse university is Glasgow Caledonian, and University College Wales, and Bangor holds that position for Wales. The upper quartiles are dominated by new universities. Among the older universities, Salford, Imperial and Bangor hold the top positions.

Calculations were possible only for the top 30 institutions, largely because of gaps in data, which makes comment on the other end of the tables difficult. But it seems that Cambridge, Durham, Leeds and St Andrews are among universities with the most potential to increase the diversity of their student base.

The nature of the student population is only one aspect of diversity. The approach to university education in the UK also varies widely. For some institutions, the community they serve is mostly international, for others local. Many academics see their main peer group as fellow researchers within a defined body of knowledge, others have teaching as their priority. Input factors such as those highlighted in the tables below show the extent to which all groups in the population have access to the many and diverse institutions of higher education in Britain.

Professor Cannon is chief executive of the Management Charter Initiative and Professor of Corporate Responsibility at Manchester University



A joint Scots-American plant research project at Abertay

Abertay wins cap and gown

Olga Wojtas takes a look at what the newest university has to offer

Each year that *The Times* guide has been published, another university has joined the ranks. This time it is the former Dundee Institute of Technology, now the University of Abertay Dundee.

The college was founded more than a century ago as one of Scotland's "industrial universities". But it missed out in 1992 when more than 30 English and Welsh polytechnics and four Scottish colleges won the right to the university title. It cleared two of the Government's hurdles for university status, full degree-awarding powers and a broad range of subjects, but fell short of the minimum target of 4,000 students.

It argued that its size stemmed from Scottish Office policy, which fostered smaller specialist colleges rather than England's sprawling polytechnics, and immediately launched a campaign to grow from 3,100 students to 4,000 by 1996, before the Government decided to halt the expansion of student numbers. With spectacular success, it reached its goal last session, thanks in part to growing numbers of postgraduates and overseas students.

The institute maintained that the university title would help it play a full part in boosting Tayside's economic renaissance, and the Scottish Office was clearly impressed that its bid was strongly supported by the local regional and district councils, Scottish Enterprise and local companies.

Last April, the Privy Council

approved its new name, chosen by the governors from nearly 200 suggestions. Abertay, literally "the mouth of the Tay", was deemed to have a suitably Gaelic and Scottish ring, and cover the university's traditional catchment area on either side of the Tay estuary.

Abertay has continued to build on its strengths as a technological institution, with three faculties of science, management and engineering. Its vocationally slanted courses include popular new degrees in environmental technology, and consumer electronics, which puts marketing expertise alongside high technology.

The new university is strong in mechatronics, a burgeoning technology which combines mechanical engineering with electronic and computer control, used to build robots, through-the-wall cash dispensers, and compact disc players. All students have the chance to take a European language as part of their course.

It has also beefed up its nursing package, with a new department of health and nursing, and recently has joined forces with the Royal College of Nurses to launch a new degree which will train nurses to carry out some medical treatment.

Abertay has a compact city centre campus, and its business school is housed in the stylishly renovated 13th-century Dundee Castle.

The author is the Scottish Editor of *The Times* Higher Education Supplement.

ETHNIC MINORITIES	
Institution	Ethnic minorities %
1 South Bank	47
2 East London	42
3 Thames Valley	40
4 North London	40
5 QM & Westfield	32
6 London Guildhall	30
7 Middlesex	27
8 U. King's Coll	27
9 U. Central Eng	24
10 Wolverhampton	24

FEMALE STUDENTS	
Institution	Female students %
1 Goldsmiths	85
2 Derby	81
3 Ulster	59
4 Oxford Brookes	57
5 Lancaster	57
6 Manchester Metro	56
7 Royal Holloway	56
8 Wolverhampton	56
9 Anglia	55
10 North London	54
11 Reading	54

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	
Institution	International students %
1 Buckingham	60
2 LSE	52
3 Imperial, London	37
4 Kent	30
5 Essex	27
6 City	27
7 UCL	26
8 QM & Westfield	22
9 UMIST	21
10 Oxford	19

MATURE STUDENTS	
Institution	Mature students %
1 South Bank	86
2 North London	74
3 Leeds Metro	73
4 Middlesex	67
5 East London	64
6 Anglia	64
7 Wolverhampton	63
8 Nottingham Trent	62
9 Central Lancs	62
10 Buckingham	60

ACCESS COURSES	
Institution	Recruited through access course or similar, without traditional entry requirements %
1 Thames Valley	57
2 Teesside	53
3 Central England	50
4 Wolverhampton	46
5 East London	45
6 Anglia	40
7 Salford	35
8 Staffordshire	32
9 West of England	32
10 Bangor	31

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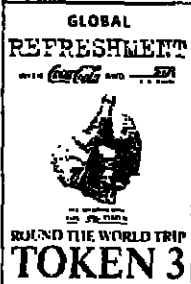
AN amazing 90-day once-in-a-lifetime trip around the world, worth £20,000, is being offered by *The Times* in association with Coca-Cola. The competition is open to full-time students aged between 18 and 26 on June 1, 1995. One student reader, and his or her partner (or friend), will travel and report their adventures to readers of *The Times* this summer.

The package, organised by Coca-Cola and STA Travel, includes all flights, accommodation and expenses for an unforgettable holiday to destinations in Europe, the Far East and America's West Coast. The prize gives the winner the resources to do something really different. To help, they will be given a Coca-Cola travel kit, which includes trainers, rucksacks, T-shirts, even mosquito spray.

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Judges will be Brian MacArthur, *The Times* Executive Features Editor, and representatives from Coca-Cola and STA Travel. They will look for strikingly original entries. Ten runners-up will each receive a travel kit.



John O'Leary discovers why not all centres of learning seek higher status

A non-university winner

When the polytechnics were given the option of taking university titles, few hesitated and none refused in the end. But not every higher education institution wants a change of status.

The London Institute, although not a household name in Britain, has built up a worldwide reputation in art and design without ever thinking of a new name. The five colleges it covers are among the best known in their field, and the demand for places is stronger than ever.

Established almost a decade ago by the Inner London Education Authority, largely as a protective measure at a time when the Government was cutting back on art and design education, the institute was greeted with suspicion by academics and artists. Many feared that famous names such as the Chelsea, St Martins and Central schools of art would disappear into an amorphous bureaucracy.

In the event, however, the federation has allowed the colleges to retain their character and has won over most of the doubters. The institute now not only boasts the largest concentration of art and design students in Britain, it not Europe, but is one of the last remaining centres of traditional studio-based education.

While most universities have opted for modular courses and cut back on the expensive practical side of art and design, the institute has continued to give all art students their own workspace. Professor John Mackenzie, the Rector, says: "Students are voting with their feet for the type of course we offer, rather than the name, and we have



Diploma students at the London College of Fashion, part of the London Institute

five or ten first-choice applications to the place in some subjects."

Mergers have taken place between Central and St Martins, and the colleges of printing and distributive trades, but there have been none of the cuts in staffing or equipment that many universities have faced. More than half the staff are visiting lecturers, many of whom work at the nearby museums and galleries of London's West End.

There are now more than 11,000 students, compared with 7,900 when the institute was established in 1986. The mixture of industrially-based

colleges with a tradition in further education and art colleges with a long history of degree work means that a student can go from A levels to a PhD without leaving the institute.

A large part of its success has been due to assiduous overseas marketing, evidenced by the fact that the students come from 70 different countries. There are joint ventures in Malaysia and Singapore, allowing students to reach diploma level in their own country with the option of a degree course in London.

Professor Mackenzie announced his retirement yesterday to become a governor of the institute and develop its international activities. He has set himself a target of doubling the £4 million annual income from abroad and building up overseas links in an increasingly international field.

"We are already much better known abroad than many universities, and I will be disappointed if we do not exceed our target," Professor Mackenzie says. "The institute is too specialised to meet the present criteria for university status, but it has done us no harm."

THE TIMES

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Lure of the city lights

Bright lights, big city — the pulling power of Britain's civic universities is formidable. Each year a fresh crop of applicants is dazzled by the prospect of life in the metropolis.

Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Sheffield head the list of most popular universities, with civics accounting for the majority of the 15 most frequently applied-for institutions. The annual beauty contest demonstrates that the buzz of a city's culture and nightlife can lure almost as many applicants as the academic reputation and facilities of its university.

The decision to unify applications procedures for new and traditional universities last year, which initially gave candidates eight choices, brought a renewed surge of applications to the civics. These universities benefited from being regarded as a realistic goal for those who had formerly set their sights on a polytechnic place. Conversely, the civics were still a respectable choice for those aiming for Oxbridge.

Yet fashions change among fickle students and the attractions of a popular city can wane quickly. London, for example, used to be a powerful draw. But the high cost of living and worries about personal safety in the run-down areas where students can afford to live have left some of the capital's universities struggling to fill their places. Manchester, by contrast, has been transformed. The 1980s saw "Madchester" feed as the new capital of youth culture. Some 40,000 students now choose to make it home.

Leeds has long enjoyed a reputation as a cheap, cheerful student

A lively social scene can act as a magnet for applicants, says Ben Preston

city. The traditional university is the biggest of the civics and attracts most applications partly because of the wide range of innovative courses on offer. It occupies a 140-acre site near the city centre and its Metropolitan counterpart. Accommodation is relatively easy to find near by, with rents reasonable at between £30 and £40 a week.

Birmingham has suffered from its image as a tarmac monument to the excesses of postwar town planning. But the traditional university is set in leafy suburbs and boasts its own station. A poll last year showed that teachers, parents and applicants from the West Midlands all regarded the university as the next best thing to Oxbridge. The word is spreading.

Nottingham University is the

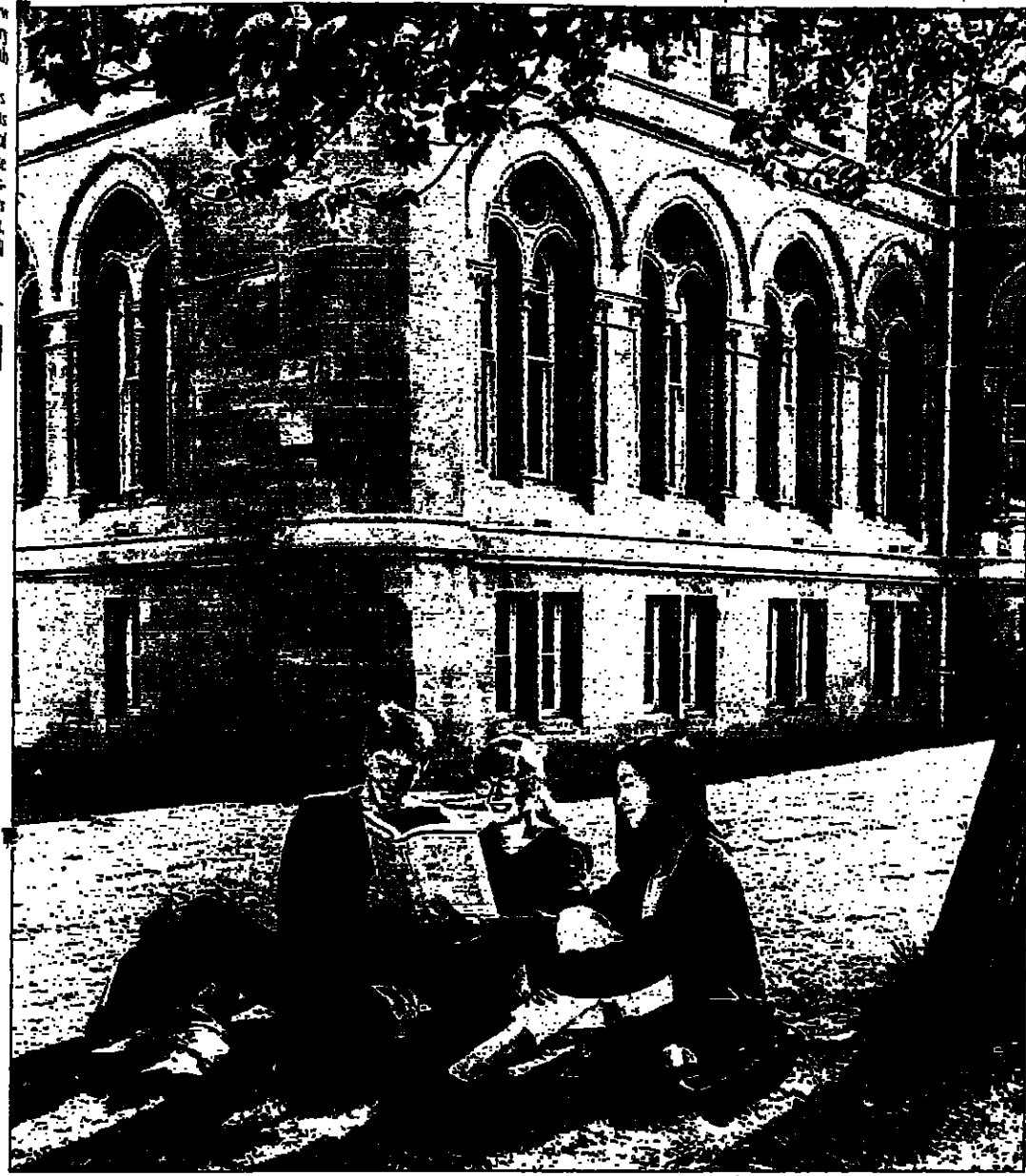
What Nottingham lacks in rock venues it makes up for in clubs. The accolade of "best clubbing city in the Midlands" may sound like faint praise, but Nottingham is well served and prices are more northern than southern.

Sheffield is also a place where students tend to stay on. The hills of the Peak District spill into the city, while the legacy of the 1991 World Student Games is a host of excellent sporting facilities. The 26,000 students at the traditional university and Hallam are spread across the city, and first-years at the traditional university are virtually certain of one of 5,000 residential places within walking distance of the main university precinct.

Competition for entry at Bristol University is fierce. The campus overlooks a chic and busy city that is pretty, prosperous and pricey, with rents nudging towards the £50 barrier. Gemma Goldsmith no doubt felt more at home among the Sloanes who revel in the Georgian splendours of Clifton than she is likely to be in Pakistan with her fiancé Irfan Khan.

Liverpool is increasingly popular, with the new John Moores University actually outpacing its traditional rival. The former polytechnic boasts a high community profile and some 55 per cent of applicants are local. John Moores has also been at the vanguard of universities which have been quick to harness modern marketing techniques to raise their public image.

It goes as far as to boast publicly that its distinctive prospectus was featured in a recent edition of *Coronation Street* — though disguised under the title of Weatherfield Community College.



Nottingham University's popularity makes it difficult for students to get places there

15 MOST POPULAR UNIVERSITIES 1994

	Applications total	Applications per place
Leeds	53,655	11.0
Manchester	53,414	13.2
Birmingham	51,235	12.5
Nottingham	49,184	15.8
Sheffield	47,948	13.0
Sheffield Hallam	41,175	14.3
John Moores, Liverpool	40,585	14.1
Manchester Metro	40,503	9.3
Ulster	39,978	12.7
Edinburgh	37,345	10.9
Bristol	37,131	13.9
Nottingham Trent	35,248	10.4
Reading	34,095	13.2
Liverpool	34,761	9.7
Southampton	33,701	12.4

Figures for 1994 applications and acceptances to degree courses, Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

How am I going to choose a university?

Erin Baker, a sixth-former, reveals her secrets

This year I join the hordes of lower sixth-formers trying to decide which university to spend the next three years of my life at. The problem is the vast choice, especially when you want to do a single honours English degree: the list is endless. However, when you actually start to apply your mind to it, your options start to narrow.

I personally have six criteria to which the universities must conform.

□ **The course**
This is the most obvious and important factor for most prospective undergraduates. In my case, I want an English course which is going to cover as much literature as possible, in other words a fairly traditional course. I do not feel ready to specialise yet in, say, 20th-century American or feminist literature.

□ **The location**
This is where things start to get complicated. I don't want to be so close to home that my mother calls in for a cup of coffee mid-week, but equally not so far away that I can't bring truckloads of dirty washing home for her fortnightly. I also want to be situated in a town large enough for decent night-life and shops, but not a massive city where I feel nervous walking along the streets on my own, and where there is no means of escape to the countryside for a good stress-out when the workload gets too much. Oh, and not too hilly — most student budgets only extend to a bicycle.

□ **The accommodation**
It is always comforting to have

the option of all three years living in; you are not bound to it, but it relieves some of the financial worries.

Modern halls of residence are not as picturesque or homely as 14th-century rooms in the front quad, but on the other hand you're probably more likely to get something



"Three years of disgusting meals could turn out to be a serious problem"

that has central heating, is clean and practical.

□ **The food**
This may seem petty, but three years of disgusting meals could turn out to be a serious problem, and an average student grant doesn't include allocated funds for countless Big Macs, funnily enough.

□ **General ethos of the place**
I'm not a great one for cliques;

a good mix of Oasis and Janet Jackson fans will do nicely (some universities are renowned for attracting either one or the other).

Obviously it helps a lot if you can go to some of the Open Days and speak to a few of the undergraduates there, or even just stroll round — you will be able to get quite a good feel for the place.

I have found that reading either the student (or alternative) prospectus or the general university prospectus gives you a surprisingly strong sense of the attitude of the lecturers and students there.

Some of the Oxford colleges' prospectuses are unbelievably pretentious and stuffy while others actually answer the questions you want answered, such as: "How bright do I have to be to get in?"

□ **The facilities/extra-curricular activities**
Basically I want a university with a bit of life in it — what teenager doesn't? One important factor is the opportunity for me to extend my love of literature through such things as a university magazine, drama society, poetry society and, naturally, a well-stocked library.

Plenty of other activities in sport and music are also important. So it's quite simple really. Good course, good location, good accommodation, good food, good ethos and good facilities.

Now all I need are good grades.

Erin Baker is a pupil at Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, Kent, taking English, history and German A levels

Excellence rewarded

REPORTS on the first departments in Northern Ireland to be rated excellent for teaching will be published in the next few weeks. The Province's two universities were late additions to the quality assessment system, and Queen's University, Belfast, is already benefiting.

Three subjects at Queen's — history, law and social work — have been listed by the funding council as excellent, although none was listed yesterday because the full reports are yet to appear.

Three English university departments are in the same position: business and management at Loughborough, chemistry at the Open University and social work at York. All have been acknowledged as excellent in the funding council's subject reviews, but their reports are still being produced.

Unlike its counterparts in

Three subjects win praise for Queen's

Scotland and Wales, the Higher Education Funding Council for England publishes reports without waiting for every department to be inspected, so many universities know their rating will be excellent although they do not yet feature on the official list. The three



Business: Loughborough
Chemistry: Open University
History: Queen's Belfast
Law: Queen's Belfast
Social work: Queen's Belfast and York

Queen's departments and those at Loughborough, York and the Open University are in a different position because their gradings have been published. Queen's expects success in three more subjects in the next round of reports.

Higher education in Northern Ireland is enjoying a new lease of life since the peace process began. Ulster has won European Commission support for a planned PeaceLine Campus, while Queen's is working on a cross-border initiative with institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

JOHN O'LEARY

● All teaching quality reports on the Northern Irish universities are published by the HEFCE. They can be ordered from the Quality Assessment Division, Northaven House, Coldharbour Lane, Bristol BS16 1QD.

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NEWS

Computer hitch delays jobless aid

■ A flagship government project to help the unemployed find work was postponed amid protests that tougher benefit rules for the jobless will go ahead without delay.

In a move attacked by Labour as "inept and incompetent", the Government announced that introduction of key parts of the jobseeker's allowance will be delayed by six months to October next year because of problems with computerisation. Pages 1, 29

Pilot saves crew as Nimrod ditches

■ The pilot of an RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft saved the lives of his six crew when he landed his blazing aircraft in the sea off the coast of northeast Scotland. Flight Lieutenant Art Stacey, an experienced Nimrod pilot, fought with the controls to keep the plane from ditching nose-first. Page 1

Nolan backs off

Lord Nolan's committee on standards in public life backed away from investigating the funding of political parties at least until after the next general election. Page 1

Plea for adulterers

The Bishop of Edinburgh, the head of the Anglican Church in Scotland, is to make a plea for greater understanding of those who commit adultery. Page 1

The big freeze

Physicists have created the coldest temperature in the universe by cooling atoms to within 200 billionths of a degree of absolute zero or minus 273 centigrade, colder by far than the wastes of outer space. Pages 1, 15

League table anger

Senior legal figures expressed concern at Labour Party plans to publish what could amount to a league table of judges. Some said that the judiciary's independence would be threatened. Page 4

Cancer survival rates

Cancer patients in Britain are likely to die sooner from some forms of the disease than those in continental Europe, a study shows. Page 7

Trousers ruling

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, has told the Chairman of the Bar Council that women advocates may now wear trousers in court. Page 3

Carthage under siege from neglect

■ British conservationists are hoping to save the remains of Carthage, 2,000 years after the city was destroyed by the Romans. Today's threat comes from erosion, salty Mediterranean air, looting, tourists and neglect. Archaeologists and art historians fear they are losing the battle to chronicle and preserve the wealth of ancient treasures. Page 7

Police forces cut

Nearly 40 police forces in England and Wales are under strength but chief constables still plan to cut another 2,000 officers this year. Page 6

Mitterrand era ends

François Mitterrand hands over power today, ending the longest unbroken tenure of any French leader since Napoleon III, but leaving his country divided over his legacy. Page 11

Cult leader held

Japan breathed more easily as police began the interrogation of Shoko Asahara, the cult leader allegedly responsible for the subway gas attack. Page 9

German EU view

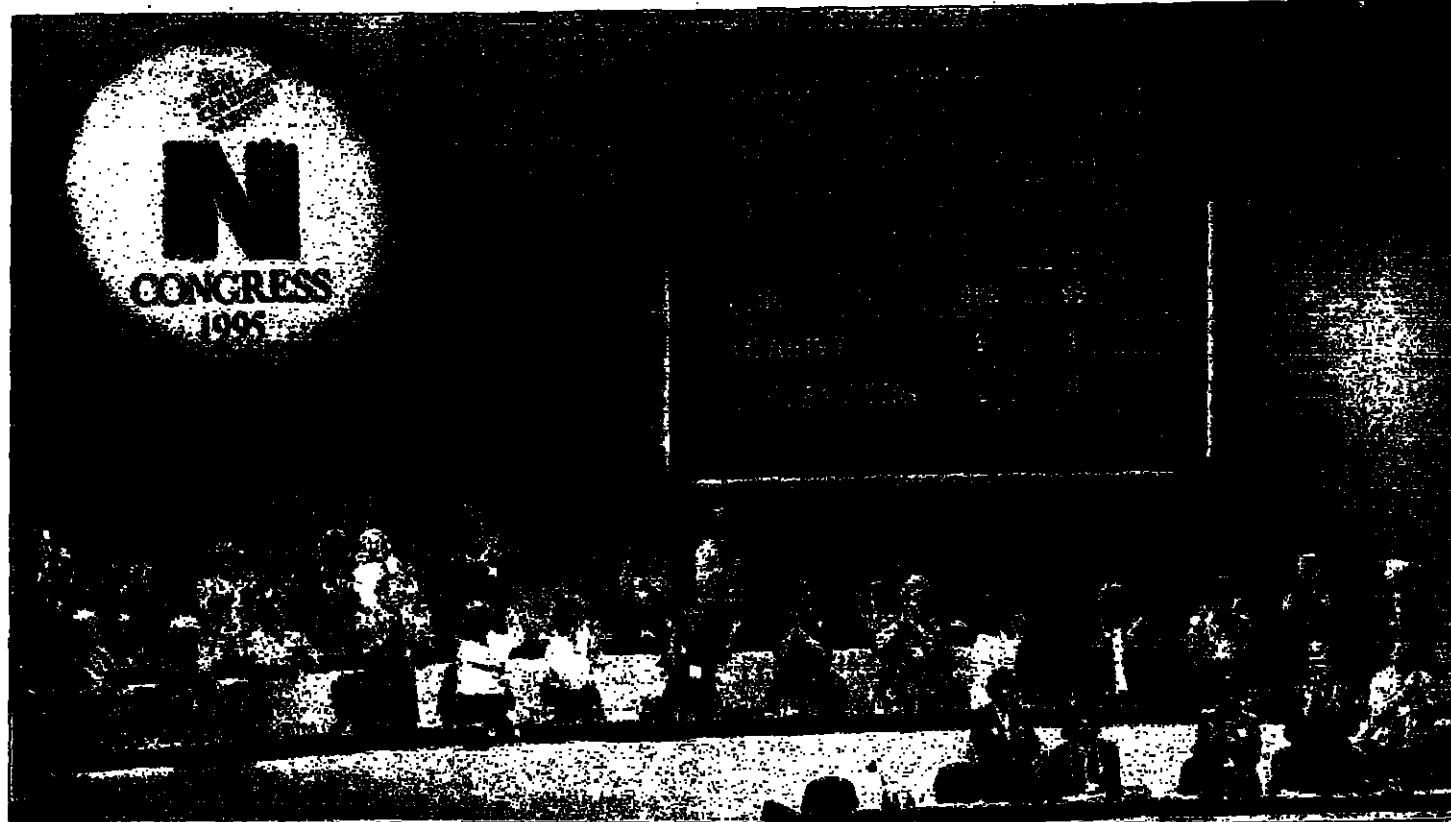
Karl Lamers, the influential Christian Democrat, is to urge more tightly integrated foreign and interior policies as the basis for Germany's approach to the 1996 Maastricht follow-up conference. Page 11

Sarajevo battle

After a respite of more than a year, Bosnian government and separatist Serb gunners exchanged hundreds of mortar and artillery shells across Sarajevo. Page 10

Rivalry over islands

Chinese and Filipino ships confronted each other as tension rose over rival claims to the Spratly Islands. Page 9



Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Harrogate applaud the result of the vote to scrap the no-strike rule. Page 2

BUSINESS

Brewing: Britain's big brewers have been cleared of charges that they squeezed their own landlords to fund a battle to supply independent pubicans. Page 25

Power: National Power may take legal action against the Treasury because it failed to disclose the possibility of a price clampdown ahead of the sale of National Power and PowerGen shares. Page 25

Television: Pearson, the media group, is pulling out of regional television to concentrate on its bid for Channel 5. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 9.9 points to close at 3300.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 84.1 to 84.4 after a rise from \$1.5597 to \$1.5695 and from DM2.2561 to DM2.2616. Page 28

Football: Brian Horton was sacked as manager of Manchester City, the twelfth Premiership manager to go this season. Page 48

Rugby union: England's players are expected to earn up to £1,400 a week during the World Cup which starts in South Africa in eight days. Page 48

Tennis: Pete Sampras was beaten by Fabrice Santoro in the first round of the Italian Open, a fate which had befallen the defending champion only once before in the tournament. Page 46



SPORTS

Cricket: Whittingdale is to terminate its sponsorship of the England team at the end of the season. It assisted with the preparation and development of teams at home and abroad. Page 48

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Impressive production: Opera North's fine new staging of *Pelleas and Melisande* was a bold undertaking that left its Leeds audience completely gripped. Page 36

Crime and punishment: Some of Britain's finest criminal minds are preparing to gather in Swansea this weekend for a festival about the modern whodunnit. Page 37

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FEATURES

Stuffing envelopes: "I am 'the husband'. My role is at best undefined. Officially it is to support the candidate but beyond that it's up to me. So far it's been an unsettling experience." Magnus Linklater on being the politician's husband. Page 12

Off-screen: Iain R. Webb on satin trousers, mannish suits and capri pants — the off-duty style of the great movie queens and today's women in the street. Page 13

Puppy love: Andrex, the tissue, is changing its name, but the popular labrador will continue to frolic in its advertisements. Page 34

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TELEVISIONS

Preview: The agonies of placing children for adoption are explored in *Modern Times: Playing God* (BBC2, 9.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss applauds *The Politician's Wife* but has no time for the Turner. Page 47

OPINION

The tax trap
Both main parties have lost the trust of voters on tax; and it is now a political commonplace that no party can win an election unless it undertakes not to raise taxes. Page 15

Howard's disclosure
The thrust of the Home Secretary's proposals on the law on disclosure is unexceptionable, and their implementation would give strength and credibility to criminal justice. Page 15

March towards zero
The individual eye of the researcher is still the best judge of what matters, be it the sex life of the quail or the behaviour of atoms on the brink. Page 15

PETER RIDDELL
There is an agreement at the political level on both sides that the transatlantic relationship needs to be strengthened in view of both the strains which have developed since the end of the Cold War and the neo-isolationist trends apparent in the new Republican-controlled Congress. Page 11

SIMON JENKINS
Parliament will atrophy if it limits its scope to representing territory. Few decisions of government affect specific parts of the country. They affect sectors of the economy or groups in society. Page 14

FREDERICK LAWTON
The conscientious judge — and most are — is aware that he learns more about his job every day he sits. Page 14

ERIC PORTER, actor: Sir Michael Herries, former Chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland and of Jardine Matheson; The Ven John Lawton, former Archbishop of Warrington. Page 17

Nurses' ballot: Lord Nolan's proposals for probity in public life nuclear power industry. Page 15

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

100

Labour's utility policy is half-baked Pubs have benefited from competition Even estate agents cannot pay the rent

Fairer shares for some

NO WONDER that desperate Tories want Labour to spell out detailed policies. In the event, they might not add billions to public spending and taxes, as many Government policies unwittingly have done. Instead, they seem destined to prove deadly dull and uninspiring.

Labour's populist obsession with utilities, so far the main focus of its industrial policy, has led it into a notable blind alley. With the exception of water, where customers have suffered big real price increases to finance improvements, most consumers have had a much better price deal since privatisation. Until the artificial injection of competition caused British Gas to lose its way, the average standard of service has improved even more.

The "problem" is political: utilities and their managers have garnered much more than projected, or than regulators intended. But the excesses stem more from capital structure than excessive prices. Utilities can carry far more debt than the City persuaded Government to saddle them with. So they can afford to splash out more in dividend rises and share buybacks than profits alone warrant.

The response from Labour's Jack Cunningham is purely political. Instead of relying on the RPI-X price formula, share prof-

its above a defined norm with customers. If that resolves an issue that Labour invented, fine. The argument will merely shift to what "normal" profit might be. It does not matter if consumers feel better with a "fairer" system while actually becoming worse off.

Sadly, Labour seems keen instead to heighten conflict between the interests involved. Take the regulators. Dr Cunningham denounces them as non-elected officials making policy on the hoof, unacceptable in a democratic society where important financial decisions should be taken by ministers. What is more, they are not accountable, except to powerless select committees. Substitute the Governor of the Bank of England for utility regulators in that diatribe and you can see the contradictions. Labour wants the Governor to be more independent.

Utility regulators, it seems, are to be accountable to public hearings, which seem likely to generate more heat than light. But the paucity of Dr Cunningham's thinking is best seen in his vague notion that utilities should

be responsible to a full variety of stakeholders. These include employees, though there seems no mechanism for their interest to fare any better.

Wholly absent, however, is the environmental interest that once loomed so large. How come, suddenly, that the drive for cleaner rivers and beaches that consumers are paying so much for is now thrust from the inner circle? How come that energy conservation has no look-in in determining electricity prices or the apportioning of regional electricity company's "excess" funds? For all our sakes, Labour needs to do better than this.

Not only there for the beer

NEVER believe those who prophesy the end of the world. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission's 1989 report into the supply of beer provoked an outcry of epic proportions among the beerge. But the Government's courageous decision to force brewers owning more than 2,000 pubs to sell some of their



estate may yet prove to be a landmark in the social history of Britain.

Statistically, little has changed. The brewers claimed that many pubs would close. Yet according to their trade association, the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association, there are today 65,000 pubs, just 400 fewer than six years ago.

The number of tenanted houses, owned directly by the brewers themselves, has fallen from 30,700 to 27,000, while the number of managed houses has declined by 400 to 13,000. But the number of free houses — free, that is, to buy their supplies of beer where they choose — has risen only modestly from 21,000 to 25,000. Some of the estates

have effectively gone offshore. The real shift, however, has been in the nature of competition.

Reporting the results of his latest three month inquiry in his final week in office, Sir Bryan Carsberg, the retiring Director-General of Fair Trading, was able to highlight some seminal changes. First, brewers now discount lager sold to free houses by up to 19 per cent — evidence of strong competition for market share. Second, spending on training and support for tenants has risen. "Current practice," Sir Bryan notes cautiously, "seems consistent with vigorous competition at the retail level".

Many customers would agree. While some British pubs doggedly maintain their traditional soggy carpet, smoke haze and surly landlord, and crisp-based cuisine, others have undergone a revolution. Food is better, and more widely available: families are welcomed; variety is blossoming.

Lager sales, which peaked at 53 per cent of beer consumed, have started to fall again as drinkers switch back to ale. And total beer consumption has

stabilised after decades of decline. The decline of the pub may not have been arrested, but the omens are encouraging.

Mayfair's property swap-shop

THE biters are being bit. The plight of top Mayfair and City property agents, coping with excessive rents and one-sided leases, will give grim satisfaction to uncharitable managers in other service industries. Similar agents are, after all, the people who fixed up the one-way leases that are such an abuse of the monopoly power of financial institutions, have clogged up the market and are preventing the efficient use of resources. Property advisers have likewise encouraged landlords to close thousands of businesses and leave shops empty rather than entertain realistic rents.

One famous estate agency, stuck with £1 million a year of excess rent that stymied the benefits of a merger, had to be completely refinanced. With a spot of innovation, Herring

Baker Harris may now have discovered the ultimate solution. It is handing over nearly a fifth of itself to its landlords, who include the Friends Provident, in exchange for lower rents and the surrender of leases that by now have a heavily negative value. After the debt-equity swap, enter the rent-equity swap.

Herring deserves to profit from its bullet-biting by advising others who are in the same bind. But more fundamental issues need addressing. Long-term institutional property finance has rested on the illusion that investors can avoid risk. Developers take the capital risk to start with, tenants take the income risk later on. That illusion depends on inflation being endemic. Ideas will have to change if a healthy commercial market is to develop in a non-inflationary era.

Pax pecuniae

WHAT could bring together authorities in Armenia, Croatia, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Slovakia and half a dozen other unlikely European and Asian partners? Surely only markets. They are founders of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges, agreed at the opening of Turkey's state-of-the-chip new Istanbul exchange, and aim to promote development of capital markets in the region.

Allied Domecq cautious despite profits advance

By PHILIP PANGALOS

ALLIED DOMECQ, the international drinks and retailing giant, accompanied a 12 per cent advance in 12-month profits with a cautious assessment of short-term prospects for parts of its businesses, warning that the UK beer market is going to stay tough.

The group, which acquired the Spanish Domecq wines and spirits company a year ago and changed its name from Allied Lyons, reported second interim results for the 52 weeks to March 4 and changed its year end to August 31.

After disposals, mainly in the food sector, brands now range

from Ballantine's whisky and Beefeater gin to the Firkin pub chain, Tetley beer, Victoria Wine off-licences and the Dunkin' Donuts outlets in the United States.

Pre-tax profits, on a normalised basis, advanced 12.3 per cent to £701 million (£624 million) in the 52 weeks to March 4, on turnover ahead 10.9 per cent to £6.13 billion.

Michael Jackaman, chairman, said the profits figures demonstrated good growth. He said the group's major consumer markets were generally subdued, but the core spirits and wine and retailing businesses grew and performed well against their com-

petition. Underlying trading profits in spirits and retailing rose by 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively, though brewing and food profits fell. Domecq traded well in Spain but was hit by Mexico's financial crisis, which is likely to have a further impact this year.

Profits from the 50-50 Carlsberg-Tetley joint venture fell 21 per cent after an adverse change in sales mix. Tony Hales, chief executive, said that the UK beer market was "going to stay tough", with margin pressures likely to continue.

Lost business to cross-Chan-

nel booze cruises remains a problem, while a threat is also posed from "bootleggers" in transit vans trying to sell beer to leaseholders, sometimes using strong-arm tactics.

There is a dividend of 23.59p (22.2p) for the 12-month period, from earnings ahead to 42.5p (38.2p) a share. There is a second interim dividend of 15.84p, which is being paid as an enhanced foreign income dividend of 19.8p, making a total of 27.53p for the period.

Tony Trigg, finance director, indicated that the company intended to pay a final dividend of about 11.5p for the year to August.

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Metered water still too dear, says Byatt

IAN Byatt, Director-General of Water Services, said yesterday that water companies are still charging their metered customers too much, despite recent reductions (Eric Reguly writes).

Mr Byatt said Ofwat has been putting pressure on all companies to reduce both the price difference between metered and unmetered bills and the standing charge for homes with a water meter. Since the early 1990s, 19 have cut charges by more than 50 per cent. But they can "go further", Mr Byatt said. The difference between Southern Water's metered and unmetered charges, he said, is still out of line.

BOC boosted by recovery in US steel and chemicals

By CARL MORTISHED

STRONG recovery in America's steel and chemical industries has proved a boon for BOC, the industrial gases group, which scored a 12 per cent rise in operating profits, with most of the gain coming from a surge in gas volumes in North America, combined with firmer prices.

In response, BOC is stepping up its investment, raising capital expenditure £80 million to £500 million in the current year. Pat Dyer, chief executive, said a substantial amount of the cash will be spent across the Atlantic where BOC Gases has won ten new plant orders. He said: "The steel industry is going

full out and we are pumping liquid oxygen into it." Investment is also planned in China, where BOC is the leading foreign gas supplier and recently signed a joint venture agreement in Shenyang.

Pre-tax profits soared from £79 million to £194 million in the six months to March, partly because of last year's restructuring provision of £85 million. Before the exceptional cost and excluding currency effects, profits were up 15 per cent in the half year.

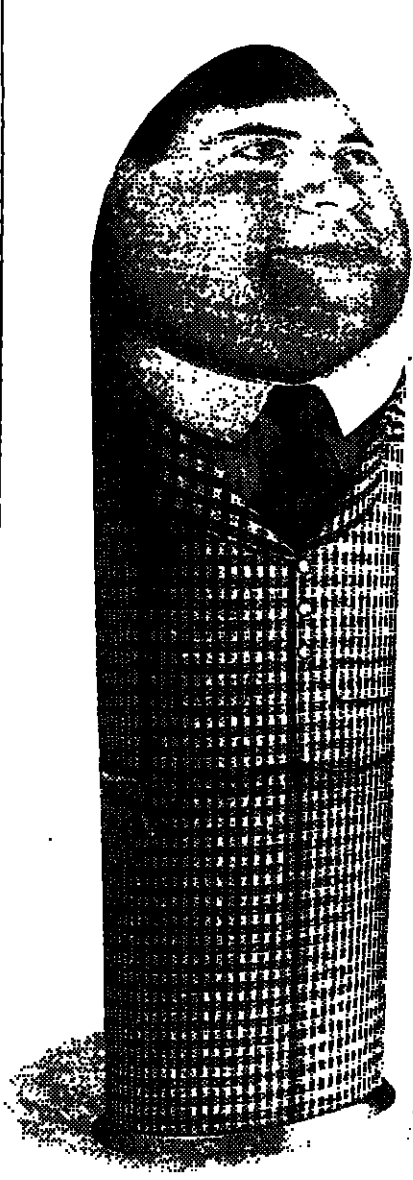
BOC's strategy has been to switch to a higher quality business. Profits at BOC Gases rose 12 per cent to £180 million. UK growth was slow-

er, because of a weaker recovery and new competition.

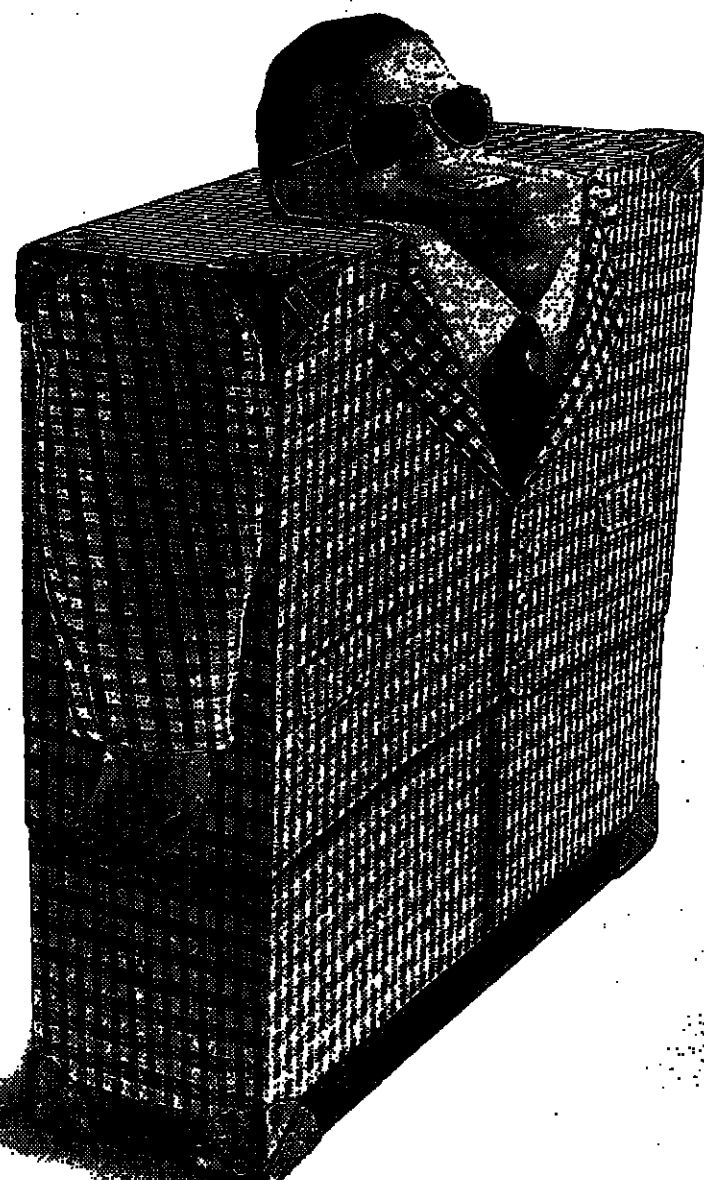
BOC's Healthcare business lifted profits 5 per cent to £31 million in spite of continuing erosion of market share in Forane. BOC's anaesthetic which has come off patent. Suprane, BOC's new product, has taken a 30 per cent market share, but Mr Dyer emphasized that margins were slimmer on Suprane. Profits from BOC's vacuum technology and distribution businesses rose 27 per cent to £31 million. There will be an interim dividend of 12.4p, payable in August.

Tempos, page 28

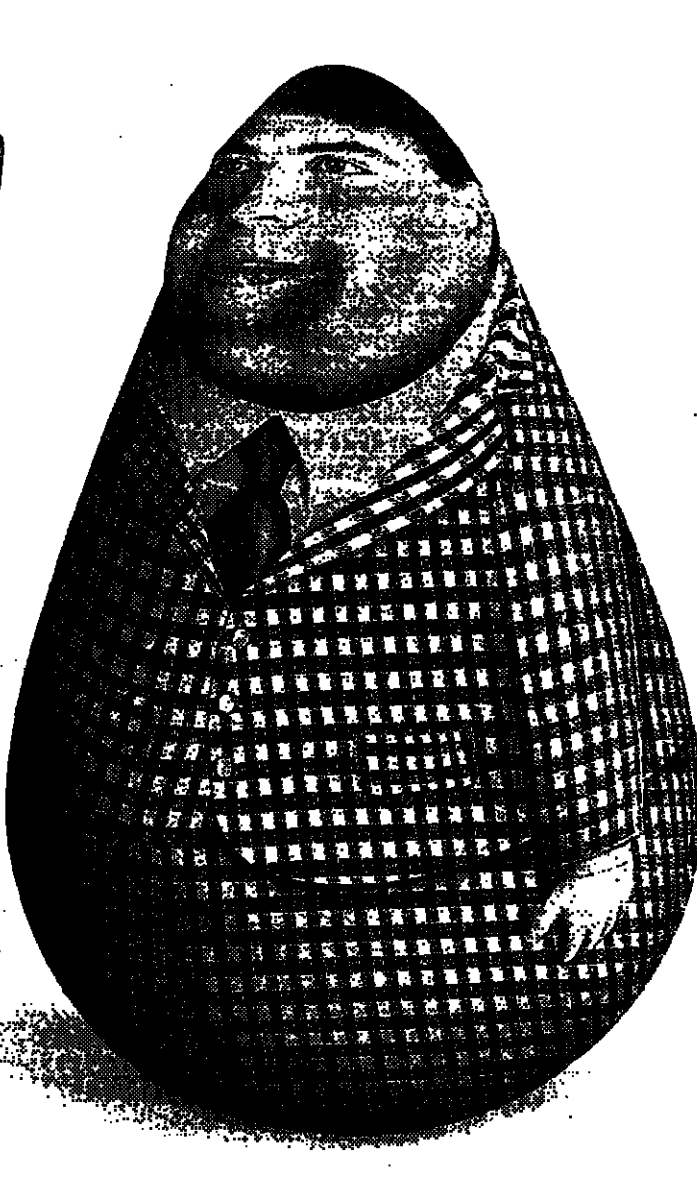
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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Move by MAI switches on broadcasting sector

SHARES of the television broadcasters were sending out a clear signal to stock market speculators yesterday — watch this space.

They raced ahead, awaiting publication of the Government's Green Paper on media cross-holdings, which is expected to be published any day and should signal a major restructuring of the industry.

Speculation was fuelled yesterday by the news that Lord Hollick's MAI Group has bought Pearson's 14.8 per cent stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, up 22p to 538p.

MAI, which already controls two television broadcasters, Meridian and Anglia, has paid 500p for 7.03 million ordinary shares and 310p for almost 2 million warrants.

MAI, down 4p at 266p, has described the purchase as a strategic investment. It now controls two independent broadcasters and a significant stake in another and also boasts strong links with television production companies, including SelectTV, unchanged at 28p, which makes the popular *Lovely Joe* and *Birds of a Feather* series.

The speculators anticipate that MAI will eventually make a full bid for both Yorkshire and SelectTV once it has been given the green light by the Government. Market sources claim Yorkshire will be more comfortable with MAI on its share register than it was with Pearson, down 10p at 576p.

Meanwhile, brokers were busily targeting other potential bid targets in the sector. Two that spring readily to mind are Grampian Television A, up 2p to 315p, and HTV Group, steady at 201p.

Others to make headway yesterday included Scottish TV, 14p up at 481p, Ulster TV, 7p better at 825p, and Carlton Communications, 4p dearer at 966p.

Share prices generally struggled to stay above the 3,300 level as investors remained firmly rooted on the sidelines, anxiously awaiting further signs of growing inflation.

BPB Industries put in a late run to finish 11p up at 299p after abandoning its bid for National Gymsum, which has gone to Delcor for \$1.2 billion.

The brewers gave a sign of



Tony Hales, Michael Jackman and Tony Trigg of Domecq

relief as the Office of Fair Trading confirmed it will not be referring them to the Monopolies Commission following its inquiry into wholesale beer prices for tied houses. Prices were promptly marked higher as months of uncertainty were lifted.

The best gains were seen among the regional brewers with Boddington 5p better at

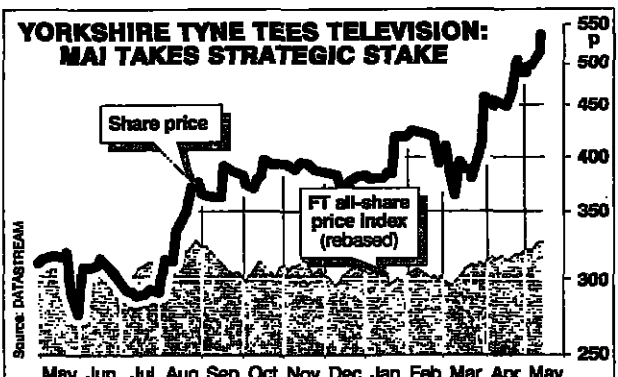
Scottish & Newcastle was 2p easier at 550p, with brokers worried that the company may now launch a sizeable rights issue to help pay for its proposed acquisition of the Courage brewing business from Fosters.

A cautious statement on current trading left Allied Domecq 12p lower at 533p and has prompted brokers to

Eurovin, the specialist engineer, has left investors nursing sizeable losses just six months after being floated at 141p. Its second profits warning in three months spoke of losses and no dividend. The price collapsed 32p to 38p. Things appear to have deteriorated in a short space of time.

275p. Greene King 19p at 525p. Hardy & Hanson 3p at 254p. Marston Thompson and Evershed 7p to 295p. Vaux Group 5p to 232p, and Wolverhampton and Dudley 4p to 538p.

Among the bigger companies, Bass was unchanged at 567p. Whitbread 5p firmer at 580p. Grand Metropolitan down 2p at 395p and Guinness 1p lighter at 477p.



YORKSHIRE TYNE TEES TELEVISION: MAI TAKES STRATEGIC STAKE

company back in February with pre-tax profits 4 per cent up at £705 million.

Half-year figures from Hanson were at the top end of expectations but profit-taking left the shares 24p lower at 248p. Pre-tax profits in the first six months before exceptional items were 80 per cent ahead at £633 million.

Brokers came away from BOC's post-results meeting in a cheerful frame of mind. Last year saw pre-tax profits at BOC, up 8p to 791p, more than doubled at £194.8 million, with the group confident about future prospects.

Cadbury Schweppes told shareholders it had made a satisfactory start to the year but the shares seemed unimpressed, slipping 2p to 457p. Brokers were concerned about write-offs at Dr Pepper.

BTR expects a further increase in sales and profits during 1995. In a trading update the group said it had seen a further strong performance in the US, while there were signs of a pick-up in Australia. The shares marked time at 337p.

Marley fell 5p to 123p after issuing a profits warning. Sir George Russell, the chairman, said uncertainties in the UK new housing market may hold back the group.

Tadpole Technology rallied 11p to 92p after further sharp falls in the price on Monday that stemmed from news of hefty losses.

GILT-EDGED: Government bonds enjoyed a firm start on the back of support overnight for US Treasury bonds.

Prices met resistance later in the day at the higher levels and came off 1/4 from their best, only to rally again before the close supported by firmer German bunds.

In futures, the June series of the long gilt touched £106 1/2 before ending the session £1 1/2 better at £105 1/2.

Among conventional issues, the best gains were seen at the longer end of the yield curve with Treasury 8 per cent 2001 advancing 1/8 to 98 1/8 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £9 1/2 better at £100 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street stayed within a narrow range on receipt of data confirming the economy's slowdown. The Dow Jones industrial average was 2.42 points higher at midday at 4,439.89.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4439.89 (+2.42)
S&P Composite	527.42 (+0.32)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	16386.90 (+220.80)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9163.32 (+7.47)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	428.50 (+1.04)
AO	204.5 (+1.3)
Sydney:	
ASX 200	2044.5 (+1.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2110.52 (+23.78)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2193.77 (+13.90)
Brussels:	
General	7642.11 (+4.24)
Paris:	
CAC 40	2001.27 (+9.74)
Zurich:	
SIX Gen	642.30 (+3.40)
London:	
FT 30	2509.9 (+4.1)
FT 100	3300.8 (+0.9)
FTSE 100	3612.3 (+0.7)
FTSE 250	1639.2 (+4.4)
FTSE 100	1380.43 (+0.23)
FTSE 100	1621.21 (+3.97)
FTSE 100	1745.56 (+0.18)
FTSE 100	1122.00 (+0.28)
FTSE 100	930.1 (+0.27)
Bargains	2518
SEAQ Volume	597.00
USM (Dassault)	153.69 (+0.28)
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RECENT ISSUES

Brit Aero Cap US p/p	726	-2
Dumyat IT CV An DW	105	...
Dumyat IT Mthly DW	105	...
Edinburgh Gas Trk C	102	...
Finbury Wwld Phm	178	-37
General Cable (190)	96	-2
Gus Carter (80)	495	...
Ivory & Sime Discy US	650	...
Oxy India	650	...
Westbury India Ws	250	...
Prescott Int (125)	135	...
Schrd Int/Grth Fd	106	...
Schrd Int/Grth Fd	27	...
Schrd Int/Grth Fd	100	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Eldridge Pope 'A'	163p (+10p)
Greene King	529p (+19p)
Eve Group	245p (+17p)
Zeneca	869p (+11p)
BPF Ind	289p (+11p)
Travis Perkins	303p (+9p)
BOC	791p (+18p)
ICI	778p (+12p)
Wolfsheim Rink	789p (+18p)
Henrys	416p (+9p)
Sabine & Little	489p (+10p)
Scotts	481p (+14p)
Yorkshire TV	538p (+22p)
Charter	853p (+12p)
Mitel	302p (+8p)
Tadpole Tech	92p (+8p)
UniChem	285p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Barclays	680p (-7p)
Nat Aust Bank	584p (-8p)
SmithKline	489p (-10p)
Zeneca	869p (-11p)
SPR	748p (-11p)
MAM	808p (-16p)
Glaxo Wellcome	722p (-15p)
SG Warburg	780p (-13p)
Takeda Chem	822p (-20p)
BAT	486p (-8p)
Sedgwick	159p (-8p)
Sun Alliance	342p (-7p)
East Group	227p (-10p)
Fairline Bosts	115p (-10p)
Interoute	115p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS Baker bites back

JOHN BAKER, National Power's combative chairman, took time out yesterday to fire a broadside at both the Treasury and Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator. The Treasury, it appears, will emerge unscathed. Littlechild, however, could be injured.

National Power is considering legal action against the Treasury for failing to warn the company that Littlechild was considering a fresh clampdown on prices. His shock announcement, made the day after the Government's £4 billion share sales hit the market, dlobbered the prices of all electricity shares. National Power, which had spent £453 million to buy back 98.5 million of its own shares, was among the losers.

The whole matter may be a storm in a teacup. The Treasury denies it knew of Littlechild's imminent announcement. Fur-

thermore, his new price limits would affect the prices charged by the regional electricity companies, not National Power and PowerGen. Finally, National Power shares have since climbed to 467p, well above the buy-back price.

But Baker has a more genuine grievance against the regulator who ordered National Power to dispose of 4,000 megawatts of capacity, equivalent to a fifth of total capacity, to encourage competition. To think of them as a duopoly is absurd. Market share of National Power and PowerGen has been on the wane, and will continue to shrink as nuclear power strengthens. He can also point to the hypocrisy of merging Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, which only lessens competition. National Power will be stirring the pot more vigorously before tearing up its writ.

BOC Group

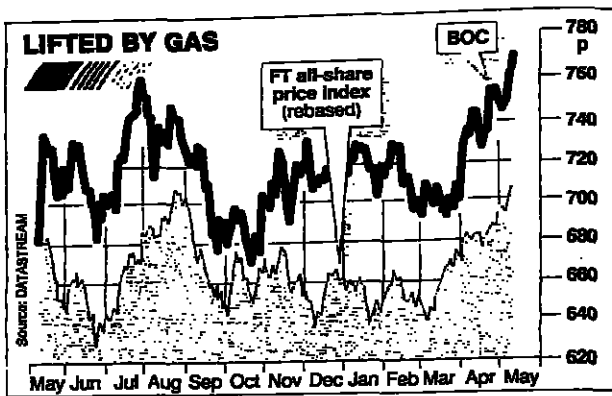
BOC yesterday showed what high operational gearing can achieve, with a little help from a resurgent economy. The American gases business enjoyed volume gains of 8.9 per cent, and the quality of its earnings is improving with long-term take or pay contracts. These involve heavy expenditure, but lock in customers for long periods.

BOC is spending about £500 million a year building up its US and Asian operations. But when the volumes come through, the company is capable of generating huge amounts of cash. In the past, BOC has invested cash outside its core area and earned substantial profits from its patented anaesthetics. Earnings growth has slowed from healthcare since the loss of patent protection

on Forane, and Suprane. BOC's new product, does not benefit from the same high margins.

With the gas business showing better growth than healthcare, the strategic benefit of investing in drugs is again open to question. In the past, Forane's high margins and profits put paid to the doubters, but if health-

care returns prove less impressive, the arguments in favour of redeploying capital in the core business look stronger. BOC's borrowings now exceed £1 billion; gearing is manageable, but may look less so in the next downturn — and BOC would be wise to sell healthcare before it is pressed to do so.



Yorkshire Tyne Tees

THE predictable behaviour of the market allowed MAI to chalk up a notional gain of £3 million on its £41 million investment in Yorkshire Tyne Tees Television, but the gain could prove fleeting.

Nothing much has changed since Lord Hollick, MAI's chairman, revealed his hand: rival Granada still owns a 15 per cent interest in YTT and the Government has shown no intention of changing the rules to allow companies to own more than two ITV franchises.

This begs the question as to what MAI intends to do with its stake. Even if MAI's chairman expects kind treatment after the next election from a government closer to his own heart, a change in three rules would be at best three to four years away.

MAI may hope to boost its meagre share in ITV programming — its investment

in Meridian and Anglian gives it 20 per cent of net advertising revenue but only 7 per cent of network commissions. A shareholding may help MAI to smuggle up to YTT in search of shared programming, but it is hardly a cheap route to a joint venture. When the fuss dies, the market will begin to demand more from YTT to justify a rating of almost 26 times prospective earnings than the sight of Gerry Robinson and Lord Hollick camping on the lawn.

With much of its debt now loaded on to US Industries, Hanson can afford a substantial bid, but the only assurance offered yesterday came in its confirmation that "major stand-alone deals" would not be limited to existing areas of business. Indeed, further big investment in building materials or other cyclical plays would be working. What Hanson needs is a manufacturing business in a sector showing good growth, preferably with an exposure to Asia.

Yesterday's results showed that investment in cyclical commodities is paying off handsomely, with profits surging in chemicals, coal and aggregates. Hanson now needs a new play before the commodities cycle begins to tail off, and there was no sign yesterday that a target has been found.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fit for a firkin

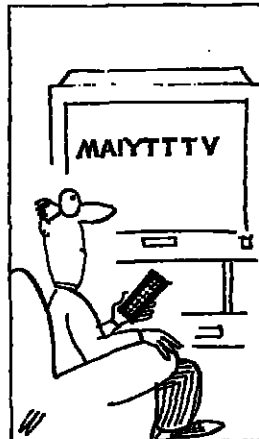
ALLIED DOMCOQ has run out of F-words. The owner of the Firkin chain of pubs wants to open a further 30 to 40 new pubs this year, and has run out of ideas for names starting with F, or a Ph. Current names in the 53-pub chain include Friar & Firkin, Frog & Firkin, Feast & Firkin, Phoenix & Firkin. As a first offering, Allied Domcoq's Tony Trigg has suggested FID & Firkin — a neat one considering he is the finance director and Allied Domcoq has this year declared a foreign income dividend. Prizes are offered for suitable F-words, though suggestions should be capable of being said in front of the children.

Gunners fan

STEPHEN PERRY, managing director of the London Export Group, has caught up with the Heseltine trade mission to China. However, Perry, on his 129th visit, has more than just trade on his mind. While there, Perry will sign a joint-venture pharmaceutical deal, but tonight Perry will be cheering Arsenal in Peking's Workers Stadium as they face Beijing Guoan. London Export helped sponsor Arsenal's first visit to China. "It was an exciting opportunity I simply couldn't ignore."

Innocents abroad

THE Nolan factor is spreading far and wide. A Johannesburg business summit attended by executives from Nigeria, Zimbabwe and South Africa ended with a resolution that "corruption has reached intolerable levels in our societies and we believe that business can, and should, take the lead in fighting corruption and restoring fundamental values". The innocent met again on August 15 "to combat organised crime, drug trade and money laundering".



Silver streak

TODAY'S Inside Money magazine's Sex & Money survey, conducted by Harris Research, just shows the lengths folks will go to to resolve money problems. One in four pensioners (65 plus) would become a male escort, 10 per cent would streak at the Cup Final if they stood to win a cash bet, and four times as many women found talking about money with their partner easier than talking about sex.

Spiderman

DO NOT bother to give excuses to the Inland Revenue about why your tax return is late. They are probably all in a book of Letters to the Inland Revenue, published in America, and include: "Dear IRS, My wife and I will not be able to file our usual joint tax return this year. Last month she ran off with my accountant and I haven't heard from her since." And "Gentlemen, As I was getting the tax forms out of the mailbox, I was bitten by a black widow spider and I have been too sick since to complete the return. I am not accusing your office of sending the spider with the forms, but I certainly didn't put it there."

COLIN CAMPBELL

Tracking down the new jobs created in Britain

As employment picks up again, Philip Bassett looks at who is getting the work



Michael Portillo and Harriet Harman, who have clashed on jobless figures

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, will announce today what ministers hope will be a further drop in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit. And though the slowdown in monthly falls in unemployment is of concern in Whitehall, unease about the decrease is offset by the now equally clear upward trend in jobs.

Harriet Harman, for Labour, derides Mr Portillo's claims that unemployment is now falling at 1,000 a day, maintaining the figures show that fewer than half that number are actually getting jobs, with the majority coming off the dole register and becoming economically inactive — moving out of the job market altogether.

Whatever the political argument, figures in the Government's authoritative quarterly Labour Force Survey show that, over the past year, employment is up by 296,000, or 1.2 per cent, to stand at 25.2 million.

There is still a row about whether these are the right figures, and about how far the Government's two principal sets of employment measures are in line, even after considerable adjustments to the employer-based workforce in employment data series. But taking the LFS figures, within that overall total, the pattern of where these new jobs are, what kind of jobs they are, and who is getting them, is more complex. Today, using LFS figures, *The Times* presents a computer analysis of the job growth over the past year to try to trace out parts of that pattern. This is where the new jobs are:

□ **Gender.** Most are being taken by men. Men make up 55 per cent of current total employment, but over the past year, men have taken 68 per cent of the new jobs — 202,000 in all, compared with 94,000 for women.

□ **Flexibility.** Most jobs are for employees — 254,000, although self-employment is up by 3 per cent over the year (all of it male), and now amounts to about 3.3 million people.

In spite of Labour claims, and in spite of some recent adjustments to the statistics by Mr Portillo's department, most of the new jobs are full-time. Full-time employment is up by 204,000, or just over 1 per cent, and currently not only forms three-quarters of total employment but took 69 per cent of all new jobs over the past 12 months.

Part-time work, by contrast, rose by 1.5 per cent, or 92,000, taking 32 per cent of the new jobs. Women part-timers, though still the large bulk of the total, actually took about half the proportion of new female jobs than did male part-timers of the new men's jobs.

□ **Type.** The new jobs are heavily white-collar. A huge 94 per cent of new employment over the past 12 months is classified as non-manual, with the figure for men a notch or two higher.

□ **Area.** The largest number of net new jobs — 38 per cent, or a total of

116,000 — are in the South East, reinforcing the fact that about a third of all employment is in this region. Greater London employment on its own takes 28 per cent of net new jobs.

No other region begins to approach this share of the take. The West Midlands is nearest, taking 14 per cent, followed by the South West at 12 per cent, and the East Midlands at 11 per cent. By contrast, employment in the North — 5 per cent of the British total — fell over the period, by 14,000.

□ **Sector.** Most new jobs are overwhelmingly in the private sector. Public-sector employment fell by 93,000, while private-sector jobs grew by 413,000. But although service-sector jobs dominate the public sector, and manufacturing is now a wholly private-sector operation, the private/public division is reversed when manufacturing and service-sector new jobs are examined.

According to the LFS figures analysed by *The Times*, manufacturing employment fell between the beginning of 1994 and the start of 1995 by 70,000, or 1.5 per cent, while jobs in the service sector rose by 452,000, or 2.6 per cent. Take Rover as an example. Over the past year, the carmaker has quietly created about 2,000 jobs, taking

total employment to 36,000. Most have been driven by product market success, with extra manufacturing workers being taken on at Solihull for the Range Rover and Discovery models, and 100 design and technical engineers across the company.

□ **Industry.** Analysed by industrial grouping, the largest rise in employment over the period was in banking, finance and insurance, where the 193,000 job increase took 42 per cent of net new employment.

That may seem incredible to employees at NatWest, which recently announced 4,000 job losses, or at Lloyds, whose chief executive, Sir Brian Pitman, predicted 75,000 job losses across the banking industry in the coming years. But banks have been reorganising their employment, as well as reducing it, while people in the City and in local branches have been going, new jobs — usually lower paid, part-time and taken by women — are being created, often in out-of-town, telephone-based, number-processing sheds.

First Direct, the telephone banking company, insists its employment packages are both high quality and tailored to meet people's demands, citing as an example its Recall scheme designed to attract married women returning to

work, and its flexible work patterns for people wanting to work at night or at weekends.

First Direct says that it took on 600 new employees last year, taking its total to about 2,000. And with an average of 10,000 new customers a month, it expects its employment to grow substantially again this year.

While ministers try to insist such sectoral figures as the increase in banking jobs deny the creation of so-called McJobs, employment in distribution, hotels and restaurants saw the second-highest numerical rise at 106,000 — giving 23 per cent of the net new jobs to employment in an area seen as offering less high quality work.

UK jobs at Burger King, the fast-food chain, for instance, rose by 2,000 last year as the company took over many of the Casey Jones outlets at railway stations, and its total employment count of 4,500 is set to rise by a further 1,200 this year.

□ **Occupation.** At the same time, though, it is higher skilled employment that has taken the lion's share of the new jobs. But not just any skills: craft employment, for instance, is down by 70,000 over the past year, in line with a long-running trend. In a move that is likely to benefit the middle classes and which could, therefore, have an electoral spin-off effect for the Conservatives, the biggest slice of net new employment — 39 per cent — has gone to people doing managerial and professional jobs, taken together, saw an increase of 282,000, or 3.2 per cent, in all. Such jobs now form more than a third of all employment in Britain. Personal services, including security guards and hairdressers, took a further 15 per cent of the new jobs.

□ **Age.** Employment is now rising fastest in the older age groups, while over the past year it either stood still, or actually fell markedly, among younger people. Among 16 to 19-year-olds, jobs were static, while for the 20-24 age group, employment fell by 45 per cent — the single highest fall in the breakdowns studied — or 117,000 jobs in all.

Employment rose among the older age groups. Among 25 to 34-year-olds, for instance, the number of jobs rose by 132,000, or 2 per cent, taking 32 per cent of the net new jobs. While among the pre-retirement age groups for men and women, employment rose by 137,000, taking up 33 per cent of the net new jobs. Overall then, in order to be best placed to take advantage of the new jobs, people need to be male, white-collar, full-time, older, managerial, private sector, in the service industries, especially finance, and in the South East.

If you happen to fit that profile, then your current job market prospects are probably better than most. New jobs are clearly being created, but, of course, only a small minority of people looking for work are in line with such a best-fit employment profile. And, of those, most are probably already in work rather than currently unemployed.

New jobs do not automatically go to those without work — so the long-awaited increase in employment after 18 months of falling unemployment figures may well take a long time to filter out beyond the boundaries of those people fortunate enough to fit the demand profile of the new job growth in the UK labour market.



Brown's Law: by the ruling of my thumbs...

When Labour wins the coming General Election, Gordon Brown wants to be greeted as an Iron Chancellor, and so enable New Labour to float over the obstacles that the markets used to raise in the path of old Labour, so he is promulgating Brown's Law. This is an effort to tie his own hands, and is certainly better than a proclamation of the joys of infrastructure spending. Brown means to keep public debt as an average through the cycle from rising above 60 per cent of GDP, or above the level of public investment. Oh yes, and to make sure that public spending is cost effective. You detect a dog-eared look? This adds up to a promise, give or take a few curlicues, to meet the Maastricht convergence criteria.

The question is whether these criteria are good enough. Not so, according to at least one City analyst. Stephen Lewis of London Bond Broking. Considering that Britain is one of the few EU members with a hope of meeting the criteria, this looks capricious; but Lewis has a point or two. He argues that Brown's Law is hardly a constraint, since British debt is currently only 50 per cent of GDP. Borrowing could rise sharply within the Law. Pretty soft iron. The investment "constraint" is even looser: either public investment (how defined?) would have to triple, or borrowing would have to come down. You guess.

But even if the Law imposed a tighter fit, Lewis goes on, there is no economic logic to the one-size-fits-all approach enshrined in Maastricht. This sets as a standard the average debt and deficits at the time of all the countries which signed. It was meant to look reasonable, not Futurian, though it has not proved so. But the real long-term objective of fiscal policy is not to meet some temporary average, but to bring national saving and investment into balance. In the long run, of course, and averaged through the cycle: the devil is in the details.

In principle Lewis's test is not the fiscal balance, but the current account balance. This

approach would suggest that a balanced budget would be too permissive for the US, with its low savings but that Japan, which saves as if there were no today, should borrow more. Britain would be in between. This seems common sense; but is it rigorous enough to define a Law? Not by several degrees of freedom.

First, there is the question of the average through the cycle. Is the deficit at any moment too high or too low? At a time when not even the Governors of the Federal Reserve are close to agreeing whether the US is well past a cyclical peak, or still on the way up, this is an almost infinitely flexible constraint. You criticise my deficit, and I'll criticise your cyclical analysis.

Then there is the market test. Lewis argues that countries that can attract foreign capital can afford to tolerate the matching current deficit; so the test is not whether the books balance, but whether any deficit "is financeable without putting a strain on monetary policy". What does this mean? Private borrowing good, public borrowing bad? Yes, except when private borrowing is foolish — something we only learn after the event. Run it up the flagpole, and see if anyone sells it short. In the end we have no Law, but simply the old financial market test which no Chancellor can escape.

Does it really all amount to so little?

Yes, if you are looking for the Golden Rule, the great automatic pilot in the sky. There ain't no such animal. But policy will surely be likelier to stay on the rails if people like Brown, and indeed Lewis, are fumbling for a rule than if they don't bother with fundamentals at all. And even if this review suggests harsh rules, the US Republicans, and now President Menem of Argentina, seem to be proving that this can not only be better economics, but better politics.

So Brown's Law could be helpful — provided that he is prepared to amend it like the young lady of Spain, not once and again, but again and again.

Robert Miller looks at building societies

Mutual way forward for jewels in the financial world's crown

Comedian Rory Bremner's after-dinner speech to guests at the building societies conference tonight promises to be the funniest turn of the annual three-day event. For the assembled executives it will be a welcome break from the serious business in hand that started yesterday.

What differentiates this year's conference from previous ones is that, for the first time, a clearer picture of the future is emerging. There is the hostile bid by Abbey National for the National & Provincial, details of which will be posted to N&P on Friday. And there was yesterday's speech by Roger Hollick, the widely respected chief executive of the Derbyshire Building Society, which amounted to a call-to-arms to fellow local and regional societies.

Past takeovers and mergers, including the successful £1.8 billion bid by Lloyds Bank for the Cheltenham & Gloucester have been mutually agreed affairs. The Abbey decided that after 18 months of unsuccessfully wooing N&P in private, the best chance was to go public and appeal over the heads of the society's directors directly to the members. The cash bonus to N&P's 1.7 million qualifying members has been "guesstimated" at about £650 each. That would value N&P at £1.1 billion, a substantial premium over the society's net assets of £732 million.

If the Abbey bid succeeds, there are numerous other British and European banks and insurance companies that



Rory Bremner will bring a lighter side to the conference

might follow suit. BAT, owner of Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, might also be considered a serious contender. And if the telephone is to be the main conduit for selling financial services in the future, even BT could enter the reckoning.

The hostile takeover bid scenario only threatens the top 12, possibly 15, societies. Those currently casting the slide rule over possible building society targets want, above all, to buy distribution networks for all manner of personal financial services. And any two large

"jewels in the crown" of the financial services world. He foresaw a period of considerable rationalisation ahead after the departures of the Halifax, Leeds and C&G.

He told local and regional building society executives that many had lost their way and allowed the distinction between banks and building societies to almost disappear. He said: "We can be nimble on our feet and we can show that customers of the mega plc players are not as well looked after as ours. Reborn building societies should be capable of dealing with people as people and offering terms and products through convenient branches that banks find hard to match. If that can't be done or if there is no will to do it, then the building society movement as we have known it will decline rapidly."

But some issues debated at this year's conference will unite societies of all sizes. Top of the list will be how to kick-start the housing market. And delegates hope that Anthony Nelson, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will offer some further crumbs of comfort, such as a special tax relief for first-time buyers.

Societies will also be gearing up for a last-ditch bid to persuade the Government to change its mind about the proposed cuts in income support benefits, which come into force in the autumn. If they fail, building societies predict the number of home repossessions could soar. Not a happy thought to leave the conference with.

Energy efficiency from electricity price cuts

From Andrew Warren

Sir, I read with enthusiasm your business editorial (May 3), proposing that some of the price reductions which will flow from the present review of electricity distribution prices should be used to promote energy efficiency.

Your columnist Graham Searjeant expressed similar views in a recent column (April 10). It will not surprise you to learn that we have long urged the electricity regulator to follow such a course.

The most obvious initial step would be to eliminate the

perverse incentive created by the present "volume driver" for the natural monopoly distribution business. Effectively, this ensures that the more the distribution companies encourage householders to burn electricity, the more money they make. Only its removal will make it in the distribution companies' interests to encourage energy saving, not profligacy. You refer to taxpayers "forking out subsidies to domestic energy saving projects". I can only assume you are referring to the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme.

This scheme is a social welfare, rather than an energy saving initiative.

The only other subsidy affecting the domestic energy market works against, rather than for, energy conservation. This is because the Chancellor taxes the consumption of energy at 8 per cent and energy-saving products at the full rate of 17½ per cent — effectively a tax on the environment.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW WARREN, Director, Association of the Conservation of Energy 9 Sherlock Mews, W1

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Moderate losses at the close


TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Low Company			High Low Company		
150	112	Brown Dolphin	150	112	Brown Dolphin
151	113	Canada Pacific	151	113	Canada Pacific
152	114	Canadian National	152	114	Canadian National
153	115	Central	153	115	Central
154	116	Chrysler	154	116	Chrysler
155	117	Chrysler	155	117	Chrysler
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FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

A good nose for the job

David Young on how a sense of smell can be vital in areas where dust can be a disaster

Even in the most sophisticated computer room, one of the most valuable qualifications for maintenance staff is not a master's degree in software sciences, but a well-honed sense of smell.

Computers no longer need a sterile environment in which to operate and are less susceptible to airborne dust than they once were. However, a clean and controlled environment is still needed to make sure that things run at their optimum performance and, because so many people now have a terminal on their desks, the demands on ventilation systems have grown.

Now specialist facilities management companies are finding that solutions made to solve problems in the past are themselves creating new problems.

Joe D'Agnelli, director for Symonds Facilities Management in Wales, who is responsible for the maintenance of the Welsh Office and other commercial buildings in the Principality, has found that insulation systems that were once thought to be maintenance-free are causing air pollution in many computer suites.

He says: "Most computer rooms have ceilings on a grid system, and the panels directly above computers are left uninsulated to improve heat dissipation. The surrounding panels have in the past been insulated with bagged insulation tailored to the grid system — fibres enclosed in a sealed plastic bag."

"We have now found that in some cases these plastic bags have split and allow microscopic particles of insulation into the air. This is a problem we have only recently come across, but it is one that could eventually become widespread. Facilities managers are now being made aware of it."

"In the past, such things may have gone unnoticed, but improved



facilities management contracts mean that cleanliness is checked more often than in the past and air quality is checked in a more sophisticated way."

The Symonds specialists were able to identify the problem because of their use of sophisticated electronic sniffers, which monitor the air in an office and can detect the slightest pollutant. One recent discovery was that air in a computer room was being contaminated by rust that was originating in an internal component of a corroded air-conditioning system.

Mr D'Agnelli and his team advise clients that computer rooms require constant vigilance to ensure that conditions stay within sensible limits. They have found that fresh

air may be contaminated by the fact that duct inlets are often placed in areas near car parks, allowing exhaust fumes to penetrate. Birds pose a constant problem, so grilles and grids have to be properly maintained. And too often inlet ducts are placed near water tanks and cooling towers, which can lead to excess moisture getting in.

When taking on responsibility for a computer room, the Symonds team first carries out a detailed environmental audit, looking at cleanliness, health and environmental control. The cleanliness investigation includes measuring airborne dust levels, sampling and analysis of the dust in a

building's air-conditioning, evaluating the potential for hazardous contamination and evaluating the overall standard of cleaning in the building and how it could affect the computer-room environment.

The health check involves testing the air quality, checking the microbiological environment, looking for harmful dust and for dangerous gases. The control check looks at air velocity, flows and circulation patterns and temperature and humidity levels.

Mr D'Agnelli says: "The problem we often find is that the plant room provides the ideal environment for breeding potential hazards, but that a completely new system would be too expensive to provide. We can control the hazards by

repairs and by a process of better maintenance. Overall improvements in maintenance since the wider use of facilities management companies have improved the situation over recent years."

Often, environmental checks also reveal that power-supply systems have a significant effect and, in some cases, equipment designed to stabilise supplies has been found to be causing more problems in terms of local interference than it was designed to cure.

"Line conditioning equipment may be quite unnecessary," Mr D'Agnelli says. "Cases have been known where its removal has improved voltage regulation."

If disaster strikes, call a mobile cabin

Emergency recovery services can restore order to computer chaos

The growing reliance on computers by many companies has added another nightmare alongside those of disappearing market share and higher interest rates: major accidental damage to the computer room.

Several companies now offer services to help businesses to cope in an emergency. Among the market leaders is Comdisco, which specialises in providing computer-equipped instant office accommodation at sites in London and Warrington or at the customer's own site.

Trevor Watkins, the UK sales director of Comdisco, says: "The increasing dependence on computers and networks in all types of business means that organisations can lose millions of pounds a day when disaster strikes and computers go down — and disaster can mean anything from fire, flooding, gales, bombing and even workers cutting through cables."

To help it to provide a complete service, Comdisco approached Rovacabin, suppliers of portable buildings. Rovacabin designed a completely new concept in modular buildings which allows Comdisco to

create an air-conditioned fully-serviced recovery facility of up to 137,000 sq ft within days. The recovery facility can be equipped to house mainframe computers or up to 250 people.

The requirements that Comdisco delivered to the Rovacabin design team were fairly straightforward. It needed steel-framed modular buildings ranging from 1,000 to 7,000 sq ft, wired for all current computer systems and with a raised floor capable of taking loadings required for a modern computer system.

The buildings also had to be fitted to meet all existing and planned heating and ventilation regulations, and be ready for transport within 24 hours.

The Rovacabin design team came up with a flat-pack which incorporates the roof, floor and wiring all packed into one unit measuring 9.6 m by 2.6 m and able to be stacked six high.

The Comdisco emergency service is also available for smaller computer installations. A series of 7.2 m jack-leg portable buildings is on standby, already wired and air conditioned for mini-computer systems

DAVID YOUNG



Rovacabin's buildings house Comdisco's recovery facilities

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Wednesday July 19th : Building Maintenance

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Haden

David Young explains how equipment at risk can be protected



The Little Glass House provides a perfect, secure, air-filtered, alarmed environment for today's smaller computer

The Little Glass House, is not the title of a hitherto undiscovered film drama. It is the name of a product that has been designed to answer the needs of facilities managers who have to provide a totally secure, environmentally controlled enclosure for network file-servers and electronic equipment.

As computers have become smaller and moved out of purpose-built computer suites, they have often been placed in inappropriate locations, such as alcoves and back rooms. Here, they can be at risk from overheating and dust, as well as being subject to the attentions of the light-fingered or the curious. This can often mean that valuable data is deliberately or accidentally wiped out.

The Little Glass House consists of a lockable cabinet which can provide cooled and filtered air and which has an audible alarm system to indicate whether there is a fault in the power supply or whether an unauthorised attempt has been made to open it.

The cabinets, which come in a range of sizes, can be connected to any simple network management protocol or

Keep your computer under lock and key

network link. A battery pack provides two hours of power in emergencies and output voltage is also stabilised. Line noise, spikes and surges are smoothed out.

The equipment has been developed by Liebert Europe, which has more than 400,000 installations throughout the world and is the world's leading supplier of environmental control equipment for the computer industry. Most of the big mainframe systems in use by industry and

governments have been protected by Liebert systems.

The company was founded in Columbus, Ohio, in 1965, to specialise in cooling systems for computer rooms. It rapidly grew in the uninterruptible power supply market and now has 3,000 employees in 65 countries. The European operation, based in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, has 750 staff, operating in seven countries.

Roger Williamson, the marketing manager for Liebert, says: "All too often, business-

critical applications are put at risk because the file server is put in an inappropriate environment.

"Many organisations have not fully considered the implications for their business if the file server fails or if vital information is stolen because of inadequate protection."

Another Liebert product, which has been developed for the office computer user, and to which facilities managers are increasingly turning, is the DataPad.

This is a modular raised platform for file servers and computers which comes with a standby power supply, air conditioning and cabling all in one unit.

The DataPad has the advantage that it can be used even for temporary installations. As a system with a modular design, it can be enlarged to accommodate the size of bigger computer installations.

It has a perforated floor, through which cool air is pumped to eliminate computer hot-spots. The power supply system, which cannot be interrupted, ensures a smooth supply, and has a 90-minute battery back-up. The system can be externally controlled by another computer system.

Top office contest

ENTRIES for the 25th annual Office of the Year Award must be with the British Institute of Facilities Management, which organises the competition in association with *The Times*, by June 23. To qualify, entrants must have been in their offices before April 1 this year.

The scheme covers three main categories: purpose-built buildings, existing buildings and smaller buildings. Additional awards will be made for excellence in facilities management, innovation and good environmental practice.

Further details and application forms are available from the Secretariat, BIFM, 67 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1AA.



The new faces in the management team

PROCORD, the facilities management specialist, has strengthened its team. Andrew Procter, above right, has joined as managing director of its consulting business unit from KPMG, where he was director of property consulting. Jonathan Webster, pictured left, has joined as director of corporate real estate from Stanhope, where he was director, partnerships. Other appointments are Wayne Felton, from AEA, as managing director of a new government and technology business unit; Barbara Moorhouse as finance director and company secretary from South West Water, where she was regulatory director; and Alan Bradford as European Operations director from IBM, where he was commercial director with IBM Service Plus. Richard Zepure, formerly commercial director, becomes European business development director. Mike Loosenov, formerly operations director, becomes managing director of the commercial business unit, and Ian Mills, formerly group account director, becomes strategic projects director.

■ GEORGE Georgiou, the former chief engineer and energy manager of Westminster City Council and one of the Government's advisers on energy efficiency, has joined Jones Lang Wootton, the large chartered surveyors, as technical services manager.

■ THE latest CAD-technology is being used on an extension of Mowlem Facilities Management's contract to repair and refurbish floors

2-12 of Euston Tower in central London. MFM is using the technology to develop an open-plan office environment for a government department and will also use it for a fire-alarm system and other safety works.

A self-learning and self-testing heating system that switches itself on and off according to the indoor and outdoor temperatures can provide comfortable working conditions and save energy in small to medium-sized commercial premises such as offices, shops and schools.

The controller, which has been developed by Thorn Security and uses a micro-processor, reads modern gas and electricity meters, checks fuel consumption and helps to track down faults.

It can also be connected to

Robot-like boiler will cut fuel bills

a central computer, either directly or through the public telephone network. Using programs that learn from experience, the Micro 2000 controller switches the heating on and off at different times each day, based on previous requirements and readings of indoor and outdoor temperatures. The unit also controls hot water through a time program

which selects its quantity, timing and temperature.

The unit automatically adjusts for British Summer Time and can be programmed for up to 20 holiday periods. A clear display guides users through the setting-up of the system. Passwords prevent tampering.

The boiler and other items of plant are monitored, and a

bleep alarm draws attention to problems. An on-screen message states what is wrong, and this can be transmitted to a central computer. Time clocks, optimisers and frost thermostats are thus replaced with one small, low-cost unit, priced at about £500.

Warwickshire County Council is one of its first users. Alec Goode, energy engineer, says: "It is easy to install and is a maintenance tool, as well as an energy saver."

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While ITV advertising rates soar, the young, rich middle-classes are switching channels whenever they see an advert

Zapping the commercial break

Ycats called it "the hunger on the bough for the apple most out of reach". Television advertisers know all about it. The thing they want most is the hardest to reach: the young, male, prosperous mass audience.

The advertising industry is seething with discontent. The increase in the number of television channels and hours of broadcasting has not worked to its advantage at all. It has merely fragmented the television audience. Thus the industry has been forced to spend more to reach large numbers of viewers with a single commercial. To put it another way, the cost of buying time on the terrestrial commercial channels, ITV and Channel 4, has been rising much faster than retail prices generally.

This cost-inflation cannot go on, cry the advertisers. Turning to their research departments for guidance only increases their gloom. The Institute of Practitioners in Advertising this week reported that the audience for ITV, the most-watched channel, is fall-

ing. Worse is the reminder that ITV's audiences are even older and poorer than that of the national terrestrial audience in general.

It is a truism that the largest body of television viewers is the elderly, as television is a cheap leisure pursuit. Last week the advertising agency Lowe Howard-Spink Lowe reported some other harsh facts of commercial television life.

● At least one-third of the viewing audience vigorously and continually tries to escape the commercials. The habit is strongest during peak time — just when advertisers hope that most are watching.

● The most zealous practitioners of what Lowe calls "ad avoidance" are the very group that advertisers most wish to reach: young and early middle-aged, fully employed, males.

Reading the list of characteris-

tics of "habitual avoiders" showed me that I am among them. Yes, I do regularly tune to another channel when a commercial comes on, or simply surf, or zap, as the jargon goes, through all the channels until I guess that the commercial is over. Or I leave the room or make a telephone call. If I'm viewing a recorded programme, I fast-forward through the adverts.

There are two main reasons for ad-avoidance, according to Lowe. Many just do not like sales pitches. More important, however, is that people now hold in their hands the technical means of escape: the remote channel-changer. This handy gadget is, according to the Broadcasters' Advertising Research Board, in the hands of 81 per cent of the viewing population. Soon everyone will have one.

So what are the poor advertisers to do? They cannot persuade

people to watch more television. Viewing seems to have reached saturation point — 3.75 hours a day in homes with not all terrestrial channels and only four that much more — 4.02 hours a day — in multichannel homes. Nor can advertisers get round the fact that the terrestrial commercial channels, ITV and Channel 4, remain the avenues of access to the



BRENDA MADDOX

British mass audience. The solution has to be found within these channels.

The advertising industry's immediate answer is that the Independent Television Commission should permit it an extra half-minute per hour of commercial time on these two channels. The current limit is seven minutes an hour on average throughout the day, rising to 7.5 minutes during the peak hours of 6pm to 11pm.

The advertisers' more distant dream is the apple most out of reach: the BBC. The BBC's audience is just what advertisers would like: younger and more upmarket than ITV's. By the next century, they hope, the licence fee will be too small to sustain the BBC's programme output and advertising will be necessary.

Having come out as an arch-

avoider, I would be less than honest in saying that I fervently hope that neither of these prayers is answered. In any event, each of these wishes contains the seeds of its own destruction.

More adverts on ITV would lessen one of the main distinctions between terrestrial and multichannel television. Cable and satellite channels have far more commercials. They are allowed nine minutes an hour of commercials, plus an extra three minutes for home-shopping, which may explain why every time I switch on I find someone trying to sell me a gadget for hanging pictures without fracturing the plaster.

Advertising on the BBC could be the ultimate fragmentation bomb. It would indeed give advertisers access to the most-desired mass audience. But at the same time it would destroy ITV's unique selling

point as the main commercial channel.

A scarier prospect has been raised by the advertisers — that the television programmes themselves might be shaped so that more commercials might be squeezed within them. You can see the phenomenon in popular American series, such as *Roseanne* and *NYPD Blue*: little preludes and codas to the main story which, in the United States, allow the insertion of a commercial.

You have to feel sorry for advertisers. No industry can be expected to stand idly by and watch its market fragment and its costs soar. But could it not adopt the advice it has been quick to hand out to the BBC — to do what it does now for less money?

ITV remains the Britain's most-watched channel because of its quality. Part of that quality is minimal commercial intrusion. Advertisers ought to remind themselves, as they campaign to cut their costs and outwit the avoiders, of that catchy commandment: "Less is more."

DON JENSEN

Janet's 24-hour TV show

Alexandra Frean examines the people and contents behind the launch of the Mirror Group's Live TV cable station

The identity of Live TV, the nationwide cable television channel to be launched by the Mirror Group next month, is closely entwined with the personality of its colourful managing director, Janet Street-Porter. Bright, bold, breezy, and aspiring to be modern, the station will be innovative, eclectic and technologically advanced.

But will it be any more successful than Street-Porter, who was twice passed over for a BBC controllership, in carving for itself a permanent and elevated place in the landscape of mainstream British broadcasting?

In an attempt fully to exploit Live TV's main premise — to be Britain's only provider of live programming 24 hours a day — Street-Porter has thrown away the rulebook and done away with programmes as we know them. Instead of broadcasting show after show like normal channels, Live TV will transmit a supposedly seamless rolling magazine-style output all day long, punctuated only by three-minute news bulletins, advertisements and a two-minute slot for "people news" every hour. It will fill the spaces in between with four feature items every hour — two shot live in the studio and two shot on location — and studio discussions. Nothing will last more than ten minutes.

The idea for a totally live channel came from David Montgomery (Mirror Group's chief executive), not me, though I wish I had thought of it first. Street-Porter says, "I could see immediately that it could stand out in the way that MTV does. With MTV you know what it's going to deliver. You think, 'I fancy a bit of music, let's turn on MTV.' You dip into it and then tune out later on. Live TV is a factual version, a reality version, of MTV."

While the station's format is undoubtedly innovative, the list of features which will fill it (fashion, food, health and fitness, interiors and house style, clubs, celebrities,

sex/love, pop and youth) can hardly be described as revolutionary.

Each evening, the output after 9pm will take one of two different themes: technology on Mondays and the singles scene on Tuesdays and Fridays, sport and the supernatural on Wednesdays and real-life issues on Thursdays. One of Street-Porter's own favourite slots is the Sunday morning "bargain basement" item, offering broadcasts from car boot sales and junk fairs.

Live TV will essentially be event-driven. Its reporters will be at

celebrity parties, theatrical first nights and major sporting fixtures — not to cover the events themselves (with a budget of just £30 million for its first three years, it has no hope of competing for sporting rights), but to report on the atmosphere. It will be

celebrity-led with plenty of gossip on who is dating whom, and what people are wearing and doing at Ascot, Wimbledon, the Bafta awards or the Cup Final.

Costs will be kept to a minimum by the use of disc-based computerised editing. All of the studio output will come from Live TV's own studio-cum-office complex at the Mirror Group's headquarters in Canary Wharf in East London, which has been constructed with extensive overhead tracking and lighting rigs that allow sets to be changed frequently and speedily.

While the programming will be scheduled to reflect the audience at different times of day — housewives with children, for example, in mid-morning, teenagers in the after-

noon — it is aiming for a broad appeal and hopes that viewers will "graze" or dip in and out of it.

Street-Porter believes that cultural identities are now more fluid and that it is no longer possible to pigeonhole people and target audiences simply according to age. "It would be like saying that sneakers are only worn by young kids in street gangs whereas, in fact, they are worn by all sorts of people from 25 to 75," she says.

Live TV will, therefore, attempt to balance innovation with popular appeal. It will be modern, but it will not be exclusively aimed at young people.

Despite Street-Porter's obvious enthusiasm for Live TV and its staff of 200 (including 35 reporters), leading advertisers and media buyers — who prize above all the

ability to target their audiences with pinpoint accuracy — are confused by the station's identity. "I do not want to sound like a Luddite, but it seems too eclectic and too diverse," says one airtime buyer.

Although some advertisers welcome the opportunity for more local television advertising, others are appalled by an approach which encourages channel hopping, fearing that viewers will zap to rival stations during commercials.

The City is impressed by efforts made by Live TV and Mirror Group to encourage the Cable Communications Association, which represents the top cable companies, to launch its first national generic advertising campaign for cable television, but

analysts too are sceptical about Live TV's potential. While it is widely accepted that the Mirror Group needs to diversify away from newspapers, they do not expect Live TV to become a huge cash generator for many years. The station will launch on June 12 in fewer than one million homes.

While channels such as Live TV and Channel One (Associated Newspapers' London-only news and information cable station) will provide added value to cable television subscription packages because they offer British programmes, most analysts expect the growth in the cable television industry to continue to be driven by sports and movie channels, not by entertainment programming.

City investors also want to see more evidence of Live TV's proposed links with regional newspaper and television groups, the idea being to encourage local programmes. So far deals have been struck with Midland Independent Newspapers, publisher of *The Birmingham Post*, and with Phil Redmond's Mersey TV, maker of *Brookside*, to provide customised programming for Birmingham and Liverpool. A similar deal with Scottish Television is also rumoured.

Analysts are concerned, too, about the managerial stability of Live TV, fearing that the combination of three of the most forthright characters in the media industry — Street-Porter, Kelvin MacKenzie (managing director of Mirror TV) and Montgomery — might ultimately prove explosive.

Street-Porter, who reports directly to Montgomery, and who is on a two-year contract, admits that she and MacKenzie do not always see eye to eye, but denies a rift. "Kelvin knows what I think of his views, but we cleared the air before I started here. We are both strong personalities and are quite capable of defending ourselves," she says. No one would doubt it.



Janet Street-Porter: one of her favourite slots is Sunday morning broadcasts from car boot sales

THE TIMES Take a child free on a Tussauds visit



The Staffordshire theme park Alton Towers is one of the eight venues in our offer of free admission for one child to a Tussauds attraction. The park lures more than three million people each year with its combination of thrill rides and country house gardens. It has 125 rides and attractions.

Nemesis, opened last summer, is a thrilling rollercoaster that takes riders on the outside of the loop as they experience about four seconds of weightlessness. Another, Thunder Loop, can go from 0 to 60 miles an hour in 2.3 seconds, half a second faster than a McLaren Formula 1 racing car, while Corkscrew subjects riders to up to three times the force of gravity as they go through two 360-degree loops.

New is the Energizer, which gives riders the simulated experience of being in a Force 9 gale. Alton Towers is in Staffordshire (telephone: 01538 702200) and admission costs £16.50 for an adult, and £12.50 for a child under 14.

HOW TO APPLY Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the eight we are printing daily in *The Times* and then attach them to the voucher that appeared on Monday (with other conditions) and Tuesday.

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THE TIMES
The
TUSSAUDS
Group
TOKEN THREE

Puppy on a roll takes on the world

Andrexx is changing its name but the little dog lives on

Andrexx, one of Britain's best-known grocery brands, is to be wiped off the supermarket shelves by Scott, its owner. In a move that competitors describe as "mad", the brand will vanish under a global marketing revolution imposed by the papermaker's American headquarters.

Andrexx, according to Nielsen, the market analyst, is Britain's seventh biggest-selling brand. Every week, we spend more than £3 million on it. Yet Scott's marketing experts plan to drop its local name as part of global branding. "Eventually," a spokesman from the company's Philadelphia headquarters confirmed yesterday, "the Scott name will predominate, so that anyone, anywhere, at any time will recognise it."

If Andrexx is dumped, it will be a humiliating end for a marketing phenomenon. A 23-year-old advertising campaign by the ad agency J. Walter Thompson featuring a cute Labrador puppy has helped Andrexx marketers to persuade Britons that wiping their bottoms is a matter needing careful consideration.

We can choose from a vast array of colours and from varying degrees of softness. The standard Andrexx product is complemented by a premium line called Cushion. The rival Kleenex offers equally comforting names such as Double Velvet and Quilted.

A standard own-label roll in Sainsbury's costs 7.5p for 100 sheets. Kleenex Quilted sells for 26p a hundred and Andrexx moist toilet tissue an astonishing £4.13 for 100 sheets. One



The Labrador puppy ads have been a hit for Andrexx

market observer says profit margins on toilet tissue are higher in Britain than elsewhere. "In other European countries," he says, "toilet paper does not have this luxury image. People pay a lot for toilet tissue in Britain because Andrexx has single-handedly convinced us that our toilet roll has to be soft, strong and long."

Local marketers fear that dropping the Andrexx name will undo all that good work. Glynn Harper, European cat-

egory leader for toilet tissues at Scott, says: "It would be consistent to change the name. But we have to weigh the disadvantages. There may be a case for an exception."

One problem: the case is not half as strong as it once was. Hammered both by price-fighter brands and by super-markets, which have started offering a wide range of high-quality own-label products, Andrexx sales are sinking. Over the past four years, its market share by value has slumped from more than a third to a quarter. Volume sales are down from 31 per cent to a recent low point of 17 per cent. Greg Ward, the market researcher Taylor Nelson AGB's development director, says: "It's got to the stage where consumers are saying the brand may be better than own label — but not in a way that matters any more."

Albert Dunlap, Scott's chief executive, dismisses as "sentimental" opposition to dropping local brands such as Andrexx. The benefits gained by global marketing far outweigh the harm caused by local market upsets, he argues. Under his strategy, European toilet tissue production has already been rationalised, so

that just one product is sold across the Continent (Andrexx is still slightly different). Media buying for both Scottex (the continental version of Andrexx) and Andrexx has been centralised into one account, and Scottex/Andrexx is being marketed under the same "squeezably soft" slogan. "I truly believe," Mr Dunlap says, "that the greatest name of all is Scott."

Other companies, such as Mars, have dropped powerful local brand names in favour of global identities. But such strategies are risky. To minimise confusion, Scott marketers will add the Scottex name slowly, highlighting it progressively as Andrexx is sidelined.

If Andrexx does get flushed away, the advertising that created it will outlive it. Last week, the 77th commercial featuring that puppy went on air, promoting Andrexx's "new, softer, thicker roll". For the first time, too, the ad has been crafted for European and Asian markets, where it will promote Scottex.

Andrexx is fading, but the puppy is alive, and taking on the world.

ALAN MITCHELL

Tabloid television

PROMOTIONAL or sponsorship deals between tabloid newspapers and television game shows have clearly taken off in the past year. Three of the top four shows in our ratings chart are or have been involved in some such deal.

The Sun sponsors both *Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right* and *Lucky Numbers* on ITV. BBC1 ran a promotional tie-in between *Big Break* and *The Daily Mirror* from January to March, which helped to boost the programme's ratings during that period.

TOP 20: QUIZ AND GAME SHOWS

Programme	Date	Time	Chan	Producer	Aud (m)
1 Big Break	Sat 29	17.54	BBC1	BBC	8.2
2 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right	Fri 28	19.01	ITV	Talbot Framantle	8.3
3 A Question of Sport	Tue 26	20.00	BBC1	BBC North	8.1
4 Lucky Numbers	Mon 24	20.02	ITV	Granada Television	7.8
5 The Showbusiness	Mon 24	19.00	BBC1	BBC North	6.6
6 Bullseye	Sat 29	17.16	ITV	Central Television	5.6
7 Have I Got News For You	Fri 28	22.01	BBC2	Hat Trick Productions	4.9
8 Wipeout	Fri 28	19.00	BBC1	BBC	4.8
9 Do The Right Thing?	Tue 25	19.00	BBC1	Action Time	4.0
10 Mastermind	Sun 30	22.02	BBC1	BBC North	3.6
11 Fifteen To One	Wed 26	16.31	CH44	Regent Productions	2.7
12 Going For Gold	Mon 24	13.53	BBC1	Reg Grundy Productions	2.6
13 Fantasy Football League	Fri 28	23.19	BBC2	Avision Television	2.4
14 Chain Letters	Mon 24	22.02	ITV	Tyne Tees Television	1.8
15 A Bit Of Bluff	Wed 26	18.45	BBC2	BBC North	1.3
16 Crosswords	Thu 27	18.22	ITV	Tyne Tees Television	1.3
17 Family Fortunes	Mon 24	17.11	ITV	Central Television	0.8
18 You Bet Your Life	Mon 24	09.03	CH44	The Carsey-Warner Co	0.7
19 On Your Marks	Fri 28	18.30	ITV	Geoff Wilson Partnership	0.6
20 Quiz Night	Mon 24	02.28	ITV	Granada Television	0.4

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LITERATURE
Top crime writers gather in Swansea later this week to solve the mystery of the modern detective novel



MUSIC 1
Conductor Mark Wigglesworth and the BBC Welsh triumph with their heroic Mahler in Amsterdam

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 2
Direct from Amsterdam: the Berlin Phil and Claudio Abbado bring their thrilling Mahler to London



TOMORROW
Hollywood's latest dream team: Liam Neeson and Jessica Lange heat up the screen in the kilted epic *Rob Roy*

Clues at the mise en scène of the crime

As some of our finest criminal minds prepare to gather in Swansea for a murder weekend with a difference, Giles Coren calls the whodunnit in for questioning

Cultural undertakers have been stoking the funeral pyre of British crime fiction for the past hundred years. "Surely," exclaimed *Blackwood's Magazine* in 1890, "this sensational business must soon come to an end." George Bernard Shaw thought Sherlock Holmes "a drug addict without a single amiable trait," and Edmund Wilson was moved to write an essay entitled *Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?* Considered unrealistic, reactionary, parochial, glib, smug and reviewable by the national press only in down-page round-ups of holiday reading, crime fiction has been vilified like no other genre. Its defenders have included G.K. Chesterton, Cecil Day Lewis, Yeats, Auden and T.S. Eliot, but the funeral fires burn on.

Even among the initiated there is unrest. Purists lament the passing of the Agatha Christie-style whodunnit, and weep at the increase of violence in today's crime writing. And when an author such as P.D. James achieves wider appeal with a story that includes some social commentary, critics begin to ask whether she is still a crime writer at all.

But constant attack breeds resilience. As familiar forms fade and weaken, new ones appear. Tough female investigators arrived in the 1980s from Sarah Dunant, Joan Smith and Lisa Cody to relieve the tired hard-boiled who had changed little since Sam Spade and Philip Marlowe first struck match on stubbled chin in the 1930s. As the honest bumbling bobby disappears, no longer to be the mere foil of smart amateur sleuths, so the brilliant, but occasionally tragic, profes-

sional take over — Morse, Dalziel, Pascoe. And realism runs rampant.

Thus it is that the country's finest crime writers will gather in Swansea on Friday for a weekend festival, entitled *Criminal Pursuits*, with more to talk about than the discovery of the corpse of crime fiction.

"I imagine all the old chestnuts will be thrown around," says H.R.F. Keating, the cre-

6 People know more than they used to about the police

ator of Inspector Ghote and one of a panel — which also includes Reginald Hill and P.D. James — that will discuss the crime fiction of today. "Perhaps the biggest issue," he says, "is the changes of recent years. Crime fiction, to most people, still means Agatha Christie. If I confess, at a party, that I am a crime writer, people always say, 'Oh, I am jealous, I could never be that clever.' But those days are long gone. Plenty of us do still use a puzzle, but it won't be hugely elaborate. It is just there to hold the attention of the reader. You don't lay out your whodunnit with a great flourish, you just put it there and then say what you have to say about the world. The puzzle element is part of your pact with the reader."

James concurs. "The crime stories of the 1930s, during the

so-called golden age of our crime fiction, were set in a fantasy England," she says. "There were never any thoughts of realism. The blood never clotted, the corpse never smelt. I want a story to have a puzzle, and I try to keep them in mine, but it is inevitable that we drift away from that, and closer to the mainstream novel."

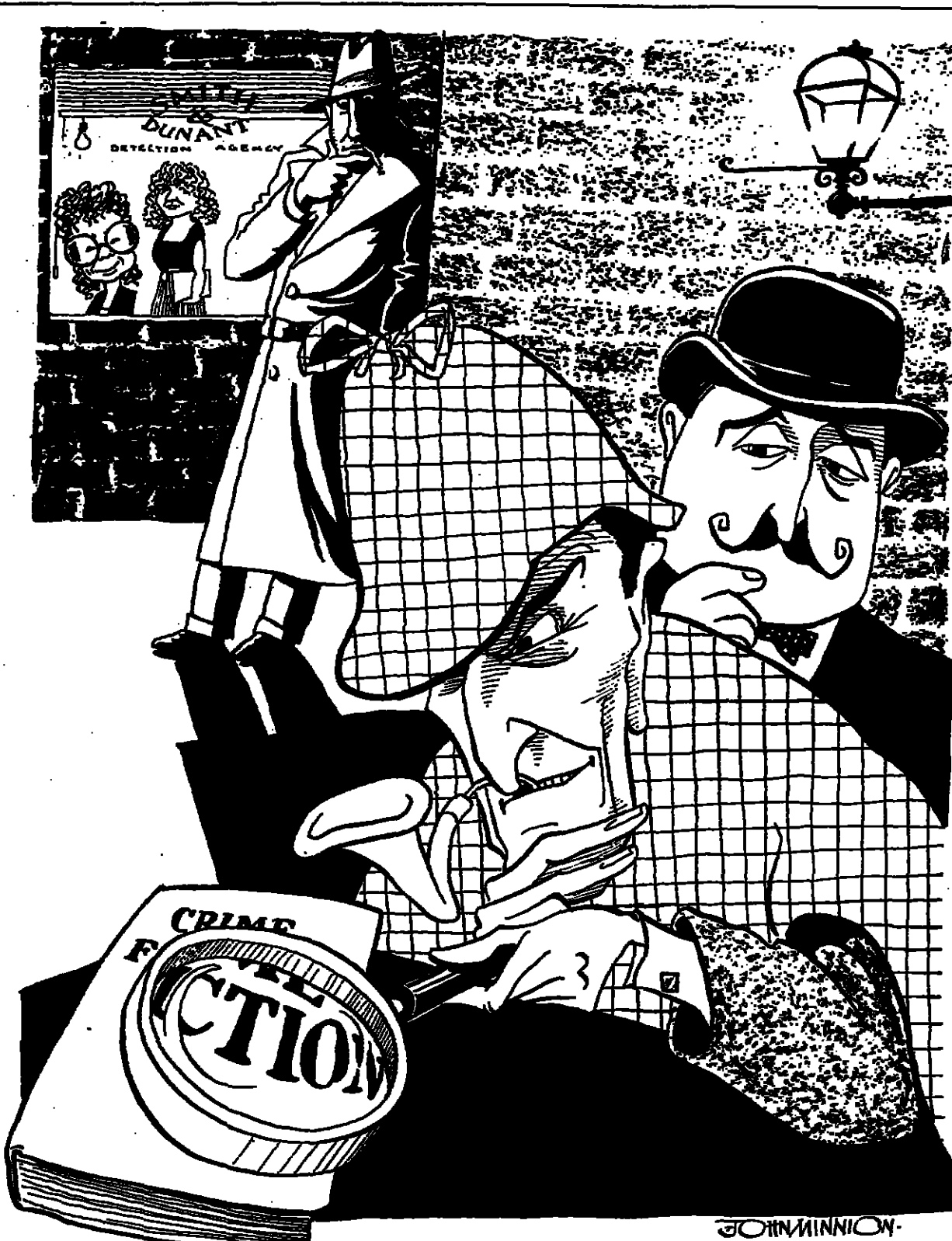
"Because of television people know more than they used to about the police. Forensic science is no longer a mystery, and the motivations of crime are recognised as complex. The old stories seem ludicrous. As we get more realistic about crime and the police, so other themes are introduced, and we try to get to the psychological truth of things."

While this broadening of horizons hots up in the world of the police novel, a different democratisation has been taking place in the detective story (which is distinct, to the enthusiast, in featuring the "amateur" sleuth, such as Holmes or Poirot).

"There has been a boom in female detectives," James says. "She is usually divorced and leading a fairly active sex life. There have also been gay detectives, and black detectives created by white writers such as Reginald Hill and Mike Phillips. But the structure of these novels is the same as the old hardboileds, and they are as unrealistic as ever."

"We do not have licensed private investigators in Britain and, if we did, they would not keep coming into contact with murder," she continues. "The women are as romanticised as Marlowe; they are still white knights in lonely streets."

These new heroes of the detective story are also exer-



cising the mind of Reginald Hill, creator of the Dalziel and Pascoe books. "There are odd surges of fashion in this," he says. "Recently the in-things has been these tough, female PIs. It might look like a giant step, but it is really taking the genre forward. Those women simply do not exist."

"Spade and Marlowe, for all the glamourisation, were based on something real, and Dashiell Hammett, after all, was a Pinkerton agent. There

are 20,000 murders a year in America, but in Britain it is harder to keep one foot in reality. Then again, how important is realism? Did it ever really cross your mind, reading Sherlock Holmes, that that wasn't very realistic?"

He identifies the advances made by James as similar to Joanna Trollope's success in appealing to the broadest possible bourgeois readership. "She can attract readers who are not specifically crime

fans, and break out of the genre without quite breaking into literary fiction."

Hill's hobbyhorse, which he will bring to the discussion in Swansea, is the status of his chosen art form. "There is a tendency to ghettoise crime fiction — the downpage round-ups in a tiny typeface are all part of that," he says. "That used to make me really angry. I felt there was a coterie of back-slapping literary keeping their novels impor-

tant and denigrating everything else.

"But age has mellowed me. I understand now that the tale of the ox is edible, whereas the tale of the ass is not. A literary novel can be readable but bad; a crime novel, if it is readable, is by definition also good. That is its triumph. And the great buying public will be the judge in the end."

● *Criminal Pursuits* takes place in Swansea from Friday to Sunday (box office 01792 65211)

CHAMBER MUSIC

Four's birthday firsts

Coull Quartet
Warwick Arts Centre

ON ITS 21st birthday the Coull String Quartet might easily have turned retrospective. Instead, it has commissioned three new works — a quartet by Nicholas Maw, a set of songs for tenor and piano by David Matthews, a piano quintet by Michael Blake Watkins — each one to be presented as the centrepiece in a series of three anniversary concerts at the Warwick Arts Centre this month (and to be repeated in a similar series at the Wigmore Hall next month).

The first performance of Maw's String Quartet No 3 demonstrated why the decision to look forwards rather than back was a wise one. With funds supplied by the University of Warwick (where it has been in residence for what must be a record period of 18 years), the Coull Quartet has brought into the world a work that will retain a place in the repertoire at least until its next significant anniversary. It is not a notably original piece: the three middle movements display a firm allegiance to Bartók while the two outer movements, clearly if indefinably, belong to a lyrical British tradition. Within that stylistic area it is a string quartet of exceptionally high quality.

The one miscalculation — or so it seems on a very limited acquaintance and with no score to hand — is the second movement, a series of cadenzas no doubt appropriate to the birthday occasion but with little evident musical motivation. Characteristically, Bartók would have set the cadenzas in the middle of a night-music movement like the Presto volante, a delightfully light-footed dance of muted whispering, which comes next in Maw's structural sequence.

But anyone worrying about that would quickly forget it in the fourth movement, where the motivation, in an inspired surge of melody is both unmistakable and emotionally convincing. The final passacaglia, which refers back to the first movement in a well contrived transformation near the end, most effectively locks the framework together.

Another reason why the new work was so welcome is that it stimulated a purposefulness in interpretation which had been all too absent in Haydn's Quartet in B minor, Op 33, No 1 — an astonishingly tense work played here with the caution of an ensemble that has been together for months rather than years. The retrospective item in the programme, Smetana's Quartet in E minor (featured in the Coull Quartet's very first concert), was more representative of the accomplishment which, in its perhaps over-democratic and still not entirely secure way, it has developed over the intervening years.

GERALD LARNER

CONCERTS: A Berlin triumph in London; a Welsh delight in Amsterdam; and the final Pärt in London's festival of Estonian music

Glimpses of a transient bliss

For the first of two London concerts, Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic brought a programme direct from Amsterdam's Mahler festival: the Fifth Symphony, preceded by five songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, with Anne Sofie von Otter. The Fifth in Amsterdam was one in a thousand and it would have been unreasonable to expect a repeat on the same level. Perhaps the sense of occasion of the Mahler festival was missing, not to mention the goad of competition with the Vienna Philharmonic the previous evening, but the London performance did not quite achieve the same consistently high voltage.

Even so, the climactic moments — the chorale apotheosis of the second and fifth movements — were every bit as thrilling. This was playing of the highest calibre, with total unanimity and commitment in all departments, from front desk to back.

Mahler once said that when he wanted a slight slowing down, he marked the score "do not hurry"; when he wanted a fractional speeding up, he wrote "do not drag". Anything more would be exaggerated for the players (or the conductor, he might have added). The second and third movements of the Fifth are full of such markings, yet Abbado's tempo modifications were often imperceptible. Could he be unaware of Mahler's wishes, I wondered, or were his shifts of pace just super-subtle?

Whatever the reason, they were certainly more evident in the Adagio, where the indications are less ambiguous. According to the Mahler con-

Berlin PO/Abbado
Festival Hall

ductor Mengelberg, the Adagio was written as a declaration of love for the composer's wife-to-be, Alma. Declarations of love may carry hints of sorrow, even intimations of mortality, and Abbado succeeded in registering this in a few minutes of bliss.

The *Wunderhorn* songs were given with incomparable artistry by von Otter. One particularly admired the lightning switch from the broad humour of the penultimate song, about the cuckoo and the Nightingale, to the subdued mood of the final "Where the Shining Trumpets sound".

The orchestra returned the following evening for Mahler's last completed, profoundly valedictory symphony, the Ninth. While there is little ambiguity about tempo markings in this symphony, there is plenty of room for diverse interpretations. Abbado's handling of each of the complex, multipartite movements was masterly and utterly convincing. In the Rondo Burleske he was unafraid to draw crude effects from the wind.

The final Adagio moved from consolatory chorale — the Berlin strings in superbly opulent voice — to infinitely protracted dying whispers. Abbado now holds the silence longer than ever, but when it really was all over, he and the orchestra enjoyed a rapturous, and thoroughly deserved, standing ovation.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Drained of passion

Evangelist, sometimes singly, sometimes collectively, accompanied by lean sounds from oboe, bassoon, violin or cello and occasionally organ, plus a tenor and bass in the roles of Pilate and Christ, and a choir for the odd crowd outburst.

The ever-reliable Hilliard Ensemble, which gave the British premiere of *Passio* back in 1986, was joined by Mary Seers and Jeremy White (the latter as Christ), while Winchester Cathedral Choir, under David Hill, provided the crowd scenes. The excel-

Pärt Festival
Brompton Oratory

lent instrumentalists were Andrew Knights, Catherine Duckett, Gustav Clarkson, Julia Vohralik and Christopher Bowers-Broadbent.

One could not have asked for a more dedicated or eloquent performance. But what of the music? If Steve Reich's is urban minimalism, and Michael Nyman's screeching minimalism, then Pärt's is

hairshirt minimalism. The setting of the vast majority of the text is based on a single, simple idea, varied minimally: a spartan phrase in a minor with a mildly dissonant twist. It is not a particularly arresting phrase, and certainly does not seem so after the 500th repetition. Variety, such as it is, comes in the accompanying instrumental colouring and the choral outbursts, which centre on the not unrelated key of E major.

These make an admittedly effective beginning and end-

ing for the work, but after a starvation diet I suppose even a crust could seem a nourishing feast.

High points in the drama, such as the striking of Jesus, are represented with the utmost restraint — perhaps a slight quickening of the pulse. It would presumably be futile to suggest that this was a somewhat prosaic projection of the story. Certainly, many in the audience were wearing a beatific smile even without the aid of the translation in the programme. Either *Passio* is essentially an act of meditation, or else there are more people than one supposed versed in the classical languages.

GERALD LARNER

Welsh justify their place at top table

The Dutch are calling this a brilliantly organised fortnight — "Mahler Fest", which evokes exactly the kind of gargantuan musical banquet that has been served up in the Concertgebouw by the great orchestras of Europe, symphony by symphony, night after night. The whole magnificent achievement only goes to prove the little-known Dutch aphorism — that in Amsterdam almost anything is legal except a bad Mahler performance.

But if the meatiest courses were prepared by the most famous chefs — Halitink, Abbado, Muti, Chailly, Rattle — the most unusual delicacy was left to the youngest conductor and (on paper) the least lustrous orchestra. That was a gamble, but it paid off. For on Monday evening the 30-year-old Mark Wigglesworth steered the BBC National Orchestra of Wales through a truly heroic performance of Mahler's Tenth Symphony, in Deryck Cooke's 1963 completion. It won a standing ovation, and deservedly so.

BBC NOW/
Wigglesworth
Amsterdam

This was a doubly important night for Wigglesworth. He is on the threshold of a big international career — but thresholds have to be crossed, and this blazing display of musical confidence can be counted as a giant leap into the hall of the Mahler kings.

More immediately, the performance showed that Wigglesworth has already galvanised the Welsh players, whose music director he becomes next January. They are no strangers to big Mahler symphonies, of course; under Wigglesworth's predecessor, Tadaaki Otaka, they gave some epic performances at the Proms. But here, as if inspired by a building that is steeped in Mahlerian history, they played out of their skins.

From the twisted anguish of the opening viola line to the hammered discords that rage against the dying of the light

in the finale, this is a symphony that gives no easy rides to anybody. The extraordinary thing about this performance was not simply the technical assurance of the Welsh players under extreme duress, but also how thoroughly they had understood what Wigglesworth wanted, and how superbly they followed his intensely charged reading.

It is tempting to see Mahler as a kind of anti-Moses in this, his last document: climbing to the mountain top and foreseeing in musical language not a Promised Land but a godless century of turmoil and fragmentation. That, anyway, is how Wigglesworth played it, underlining every shuddering dissonance and pulling off some audaciously theatrical effects. He also conducted this complex work from memory, an immense piece of concentration.

Why, however, were the BBC NOW and Wigglesworth selected to perform the Tenth in the first place? Wigglesworth offers a frank

explanation: "Donald Mitchell and the other scholars organising the festival were determined that Cooke's completion should be included. But the big three orchestras — Berlin, Vienna and Amsterdam — simply haven't got the Tenth in their repertoires. Mitchell knew that I conducted it, so we got the call."

"In fact the Tenth is by far the hardest Mahler symphony to play. The Concertgebouw Orchestra performed it once, and loathed it. I think that on the Continent there is still a bit of suspicion about Cooke's completion: they see it as a piece of tampering by an English academic."

To prepare for this performance, Wigglesworth rehearsed the strings alone for six hours, the wind players for three hours, and then the whole orchestra for 15 hours. Twenty-four hours in all, then. "You could call it a very long day," Wigglesworth quips. But also an immensely rewarding one.

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Apply by writing with full CV with note of competence levels in shorthand, typing and French and quoting experience of working as a Personal Assistant at senior executive level to: C Ward, Personnel Manager IMG, 5th Floor Asia Centre, Hagerth Business Park, Burlington Lane, Chiswick W4 2TH.

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research, constituency affairs at the House of

Casting around for solution to fly-by-night's lure

Brian Clarke offers some helpful hints to the trout fisherman seeking to see past the clever sales pitch

It is rubbing-hands-together-and-chortling-like-Fagin time. It is "how about this, and isn't that a beauty, and if you haven't got a dozen of these it isn't worth going" time. Spring is the time when tackle dealers see the fly fisher coming and offload enough coloured nonsense to stock a rain forest with parakeets.

I never did meet a fly fisher who was not a sucker for a new fly, any more than I ever met a coarse fisher who was not a sucker for a new float. Show me a tackle bag and I will show you excess baggage. Do not attempt to lift mine.

For the old hand who buys almost as a tribute to the tackle dealer's dazzling pitch, all of this is fair enough. He knows that flies for looking at and flies for fishing with are very different.

For the newcomer or the untutored, it is a different matter. He is meat and drink to the trade, and they roast him. For the glibbie, fly choice equals fly bewilderment, bewilderment equals sales opportunity, opportunity equals sales pitch, sales pitch equals purchase. Naturally, purchase does not equal success.

So where does the trout fisher begin stocking up for the new season? How does he avoid the



On a peaceful country backwater, a trout fisherman piles his trade, knowing that the choice of fly can be crucial to success as the season gets under way

useless and buy the probably effective? What are the characteristics of a good dressing?

The only rules of thumb I know apply to dry flies, because trout will take all manner of concoctions below the surface. To apply these rules it is necessary to understand something of the principles of dry fly design. They are based on an understanding of what trout seem to see when they look at any surface fly.

The best fly designers have

always known that the best they can produce look pathetic compared with the natural insect, because the differences scream out. They have also long understood that a feeding trout is not comparing natural with artificial and looking for differences.

A trout appears to be programmed to respond to similarities. If the fish sees a lot of natural flies on the water — and natural flies of a species tend to appear at the same time — it recognises the

familiar signals they give off. It has lived all its life by responding to such signals.

The art of the fly-dresser is based on this reaction and is not unlike the art of the cartoonist. When a cartoonist shows us certain features — often exaggerated of a politician of the day, we respond with "Mr. Big"; even though the strokes on the paper may look nothing like Mr. Big in reality. In designing an effective dry fly, the fly-dresser is suggesting and

exaggerating the signals that a natural fly gives when it is viewed from below the surface. The natural fly is on the surface. It has a particular colour; it is of a particular size — and it creates tiny impressions in the surface which are consistent with all of this. When the trout sees that kind of impression, it is likely to rise because of these features alone. Every surface insect it has ever taken has displayed them. From time to time, a particularly wary

fish may look at a fly longer and more carefully, but in the main the principal signals are enough.

It is on the basis of these few features alone that the most successful dry flies — for use on rivers especially — are designed. They are flies that match the sizes of natural insects — and that mostly means flies on hook sizes 16, 14 and 12. They are flies that have broadly the right colour of dressing on them, which is mostly olive or olive-brown, with a few startling

exceptions. They are flies that have little dressing on them because, in the main, the natural insects are slender and dainty.

On lakes, the wise fly-designer will take an additional factor into account. On rivers, the current brings the fly to the fish, but in a lake the trout must go in search of the fly — and so visibility needs to be considered. While it does not follow that a fish will take a fly because it sees it, it is true that no fish will take a fly it has not seen.

Two other important points should be noted. Unless the fish are small and are to be pursued with light tackle, fine wire hooks should be avoided. Although these are pushed on and for the trade, and most commercially-available dry flies are tied on them, they are prone to opening.

The second point is that the hook for a good dry fly should extend only as far as the gape of the hook, or a fraction beyond it. Most shop-bought artificials are tied with hooks as large as flue-brushes. They project two, three and four times the width of the gape, do not give off signals consistent with natural flies and so make it less likely that a fish will be deceived. If a fish does come up, the extra baggage makes it less likely that the fish will be hooked. Short-fibred hackles are more expensive than long, because there are many fewer of them — but they are worth the extra. And so, go forth and buy wisely. And examine everything that the wheeler-dealer offers you like a fish.

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Champions whose pride came before the inevitable fall

We do not have mythology any more. We have sports pages. This causes no jarring in the mind: sport is the stuff of myth, and vice versa. Top athletes are always telling us about pride in performance, about that little touch of arrogance that is the difference between champions and common folk. Look at any great batsman in his pomp: he knows he is better than all the bowlers in the world that day.

But pride is dangerous, and arrogance teeters on the brink of disaster. A fraction of an inch further and balance is gone. We are toppling into the abyss of insolence, of hubris.

Hubris: overweening pride that becomes a direct challenge to the gods. And if you challenge the gods, you cannot escape punishment.

A chap called Capaneus saved

himself from death in a raging storm by grasping a cliff-top rock. Still hanging high on his cliff above the sea, he hollered his delight, taunting Zeus with his skill and fortune. At once, the rock broke, and Capaneus fell. Hubris had brought its inevitable punishment.

At this moment sport seems to be packed with Capaneuses, but then it always is. West Indies, Manchester United, Chris Eubank. All are reeling under what has been grandiosely termed "the chastisement of hubris".

And, as it happens, each of them is about to take the next step. Each faces a fork in the road. One way leads to an ever steeper decline, another to rehabilitation.

West Indies have come here in frank dismay. For years they have been a side to which the possibility of defeat did not even

occur. This self-certainty took them to victory after victory. But, as with everything else, there was a trade-off. They lost the ability to deal with defeat.

Colossal team spirit characterised the all-conquering West Indies, but when you are winning, team spirit is easy. In defeat, the easy option is to find other people to blame: the captain, the bowlers, the batsmen, the superstar, the management.

There are many theories: Brian Lara is fed up with getting all the runs; the bowlers have given up batting responsibly; the other batsmen are overawed by Lara and the captain, Richie Richardson, is overwhelmed by responsibility.

Thus the mightiest side in the world gets rolled over by Hampshire and moves into an English summer with great trepidation. Perhaps the old enemy will lift

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

lagging spirits, victory revive collective belief.

Meanwhile, Manchester United, who entered the season like champions - as of right, ended second best to a side packed with the humdrum virtues that United

half-despise. United's hubris was, of course, centred and distilled in a single man. It is Eric Cantona's extraordinary vision that catalysed United and carried them from good to great. Nobody gets the better of Eric.

Apart from when they do, of course, and Cantona lacks the equipment to deal with such a reverse. Hence the red anger, hence the sendings-off, hence the crazy night at the Palace, hence United's falling away, hence Blackburn's victory.

Hubris chastised. Now to the FA Cup Final on Saturday, when United, Cantona-less, have the season's last throw for glory. It will be interesting to see how a side characterised by strutting arrogance can cope with defeat in the league.

The cornerstone of Eubank's ultra-tacky act has been strutting

arrogance. No metaphor here; the strut is, I have no doubt, something he practises daily in front of the mirror. He was out there trumpeting his own virtues, just for a change, yesterday.

Defeat by Steve Collins was his inevitable chastisement. It rather spoils the act. On Saturday week, he takes on an Argentinian called Bruno Godoy, and then we will learn what defeat has done to Eubank.

We can find hubris and its chastisement on every sports page of every newspaper. Nigel Mansell's glorious return to Formula One became a mixture of farce and misery. He parked his car in mid-race last Sunday because it was dangerous. Is that the lion-heart of old? So often, the punishment for hubris is age.

Not always. The Carling Affair was a rare example of the hubris of

age chastised by youth. With the great Dennis Comrie, the power of gilded age was broken. Will Carling's sackers were blinded by their own pride. Hubris brought its due punishment.

Or, perhaps the finest example of all, take Dennis Comrie, America's Cup hero and American yachtsman of matchless pride. How the gods must have laughed when he was filling his lungs and preparing to taunt the gods once again, they sent him New Zealand, not to defeat but to overwhelm him. There was laughter on Olympus last weekend all right. But then there always is.

Look at every athlete surging a wave of success: Lara, Schumacher, Shearer. If they overreach, their chastisement most certainly awaits.

Campbell's display of courage not conviction

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

WORCESTER (first day of three; West Indians won toss): West Indians have scored 114 for two wickets against Worcestershire

CALYPSO music welcomed the West Indians to Worcester yesterday, and it sounded as appropriate as might *The Dream of Gerontius* in Jamaica. New Road was a bleak place in the morning, as the touring side managed to get in 24 overs of batting, and a wet one thereafter. Play was called off to everyone's satisfaction, at 4pm.

There was quite a lot crammed in to the one hour and 40 minutes that the weather could not disturb. Paul Thomas, formerly of Shropshire, took his first wicket in first-class cricket and Sherwin Campbell made 46 most peculiar runs, wielding his bat like a claymore. It must be in the blood: the Campbells behaved like that at Gloucester.

It would help if there were a MacDonald batting at the other end. Distinguishing

Scoreboard 44

Campbell from Stuart Williams is a difficult task, not least because Williams shares his opening partner's taste for the bizarre and exotic. In any case, under the apparently mandatory helmets that players wear nowadays, Brian Lara would look like Trevor McDonald.

There is one Test place to contest and it is clear that Campbell and Williams will joust blow for blow, if not run for run. It brings to mind Leonard Hutton's remark when two other West Indian openers were competing for a single Test place in the Sixties. One turned his back on the other, who was run out just short of a hundred. "Aye, and they want self-government," Hutton observed.

Campbell is not the sort of batsman to obey any demand for abstinence. He smacked Radford's first ball to the cover boundary, repeated the stroke next ball and, after leaving the next strictly to get his eye in, launched into the most fero-

cious drive of the lot. Radford retired, steam pouring from his ears, to graze on the outfield; 14 runs worse off.

Neither batsman moves his feet if he can possibly help it, so the bowler must always have a chance. Newport thought he had Williams leg-before in front of everything early on, and then turned him round completely in his stroke only to see the ball fall short of Leatherdale at cover. The pair survived the change of bowlers yesterday but they will not always be so fortunate on this tour.

Though he rattled the boards with some authentic strokes, Campbell was never truly "in". Lampitt, running the ball into the batsmen, saw one excellent and one good shout for leg-before turned down by umpire Shepherd in the same over. So long as the Worcestershire batsmen are granted the same indulgence in their innings, they won't complain.

On 36, Campbell mishit a drive over cover, again falling away to off like a fisherman tugged by an angry trout. On 38, he got four runs over slip off the shoulder of the bat. On 42, he was bowled trying to force Lampitt, who heard, to his dismay, Shepherd's no-ball call.

He could not last the session. Eventually Lampitt had to get the better of his flimsy defence and Campbell duly obliged, playing all round one that straightened. His innings was brief, cheerful and, in terms of what his team requires on pitches such as this, absolutely useless.

Thomas had made his mark by then, having Williams caught in the gully with his fifth ball after the previous couple had been pulled and driven to the ropes. He might have had Lara too, on 12, had Newport, at mid-off, been six inches taller, but that would have been too much of a good thing.

Chas Taylor, 28, the Middlesex left-arm seamer, has suffered a recurrence of the knee cartilage injury that sidelined him for most of last season and faces a further scan.

Photograph, page 48



Eubank, the former WBO super-middleweight champion, looks thoughtful as his first bout since his defeat is announced in Dublin

Chastened Eubank returns with a pose

After keeping a low profile in the wake of his defeat by Steve Collins two months ago, Chris Eubank was back in circulation again yesterday in his own inimitable manner. He was in Belfast by 11am to publicise the bout there with Bruno Godoy, of Argentina, on May 27, and back in London by 3.30 for a news conference, where he insisted the defeat had turned out to be a blessing.

"Simply The Best" may be second best at the moment, and his contest with Godoy may only be a ten-rounder, but standards have to be maintained. The announcement had to be made at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane. No workaday meeting place for the showman of the ring, who is clearly a believer in the saying: "Even when you're down, look a million dollars if you want to make a million dollars."

Eubank arrived in an im-



Srikumar Sen hears the former WBO champion promise things will change for his coming bout

maculately-tailored taupe suit with gold buttons on parade down his chest and on his cuffs, not a hair out of place, not a reflection out of alignment on his spit-and-polished shoes.

When Eubank lost his title, he was relieved to have been released from the pressures of being an undefeated champion. At the post-fight press conference he did not keep journalists waiting for the usual two hours while he preened himself to sartorial perfection. Instead, he arrived within a short time of losing the bout, shorn of the panoply of success, in a nondescript grey tracksuit. His exit was as quiet and dignified as his entrance to the show riding his Harley

Davidson had been loud and brash. But after a holiday in the United States, he soon found that life as a contender was not the style for a man who saw himself as the best. With his contract with Sky running out in June, and few lucrative contests ahead of him, he no longer had the absolute freedom to pursue his high-flying eccentricities, such as hopping on Concorde to New York on impulse.

He said that the loss of his title had given him time to re-examine his attitude in and out of the ring. The loss had been a good thing, he believed. Now he had the chance, he said, to realise his full potential as a man and boxer. He believed adversity

would bring out the best in him.

"I have revised my views about money," he said. "I still would have bought the Aston Martin for sure, for as far as cars go, this is like making love to a new girlfriend. But the problem was that I wasn't born to parents who were accountants, so I had no one to tell me how important money was. The worst thing I did with money was that I did not treat myself as an employee. If I had all this to do again, I would put 40 per cent tax away."

He said he was glad of the opportunity to go back and look afresh at the things that had to be done. "When you've been doing what I've been doing for as long as I have, you break the basic rules, and set your own standards. I realise now that that you can't do. But there was no one around to tell me about it. The loss was a very good thing, because now I have

exact focus. I have character again. It began to get vague two and a half years ago. I lost the good habits necessary for this spartan life. Only loss can help you find back your focus. Otherwise, people would not have seen the best of Eubank."

Eubank is determined to win his title back again, and is prepared to knuckle under and discipline himself and not leave himself overweight until the last moment. He said he has forgotten to do basic things like run at 5.30 in the morning, go to bed at 9.30, and had the wrong eating and drinking habits.

"Now I want to be more responsible in the ring," he said. "You can't think larger than life. The job in hand is the job you must do. You must not be kind. You have to get rid of the man at the end of your punches. You are not supposed to take pity or leave it till another time. I will be more ruthless in the ring."

Gordon aching to get back on the court

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE only good news to emerge from the chastening weekend suffered by the England basketball team in Hungary was that Trevor Gordon is likely to be fit for the European championship qualifying tournament at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham next week.

Gordon, the 6ft 9in, 165lb Manchester Giants centre, flew home early from the Pannon Cup tournament with one broken tooth and two others loosened by a Dutch opponent in a collision that Gordon characterised as "unintentional".

The incident happened during England's 82-67 defeat by Holland on the opening day in Sopron. This was followed by two more reverses, 82-78 against South Korea and 77-69 against Hungary.

After emergency dental treatment in Manchester, Gordon said: "I'm still in

pain. The only thing that makes it bearable is these high-powered pain-killers I've been taking."

He will almost certainly miss the exhibition game on Friday against the Republic of Ireland at Eastleigh but hopes to be lining up next week against Wales, Luxembourg, Georgia, Denmark and Poland at the NEC.

Another England casualty in Hungary was Spencer Dunkley, who missed the first two games with a viral infection before returning to score 20 points against Hungary.

The addition of both Gordon and John Amaechi, a product of Penn State University, should bring Laszlo Nemeth's squad back up to full strength. And that will be doubly welcome, considering that Steve Bucknall, of whom so much is expected, was restricted to ten points in each of the three games in Hungary.

Rankings built for fun

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IN AN attempt to judge the relative merit of athletes competing in a sport which embraces a range of disciplines, the British Athletics Federation (BAF) yesterday launched the "TSB" rankings. They are for amusement mainly, a talking point rather than a device to make the rich richer, but the stimulus at schools level may help the search for future champions.

The rankings cover British athletes only and are unique in that no other national federation operates a system which endeavours to compare one man's javelin throw with another man's steeplechase, or one woman's pole vault with another's 100 metres.

Lindford Christie heads the first men's rankings, while, for example, Steve Buckley, the European and Commonwealth javelin champion, is third. Sally Gunnell, the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, leads the women's rankings, while Denise Lewis, the Commonwealth

heptathlon champion, is eleventh.

The scoring system is a statistician's breakfast but, simplified, is based on an athlete's six best performances in the two-year period before any new list, with bonus points for places achieved in the important domestic and international championships. The Hungarian tables, used to break ties in the international grand prix, have been taken



Christie heads list

as the basis for scoring, but with modifications to reflect recent trends. A short putter, for example, would be at a disadvantage on the old tables because standards have dropped in the wake of drug testing.

There are no rewards for being ranked: no prize-money, grants, or selection guarantees. They are not a guide to latest form because an athlete's ranking may be historically based. David Grindley, the British 400 metres record-holder, is ranked fourteenth despite not competing last year, still struggling with injury, although his is an extreme case of an athlete out, but in.

The schools' rankings will feature 6,000 names, divided into three age groups, separately for boys and girls. These rankings are based on one performance only and, with the decline in exposure of athletics in schools, the rankings may encourage schoolchildren to have a go.

England rely on pairs to stay in top flight

By RICHARD EATON

CIRO CINIGLIO, the England manager, believes the national badminton squad can remain in the top category of the team event at the world championships, which start in Lausanne today, even though the under-funded side is at a financial disadvantage to others in the game's elite.

England are in the same Sudirman Cup sub-group as the title-holders, Korea, whose Olympic gold medal winners were given a monthly stipend of US\$800 (about £513) for life, and China, who have state funding.

Ciniglio's budget is about one third of that given to the Danes, who are in the other top sub-group, and only a fraction of that available for the Indonesians, for whom badminton is now rivaling football as the leading sport.

Survival will depend on England's three doubles pairs maintaining recent improvement. "The opposition may

have advantages of better backing than us," Ciniglio said. "But we can still stay up — even if it comes down to the last match."

If that happens, England are likely to be facing Thailand, with the decider perhaps hanging on a men's doubles between the European champions, Chris Hunt and Simon Archer, and the world's eighth-ranked pair, Thongsari and Teerawattana.

Survival will also depend substantially on Nick Pounting and Joanne Wright reproducing the form that made them All England mixed doubles champions last year, and upon Wright and Julie Bradbury continuing the women's doubles progress that has carried them into the world's leading group.

However well England perform, though, Indonesia are favourites to regain the title from the Koreans.

IN BRIEF

Rominger speeds to second stage win

TONY ROMINGER extended his overall lead in the Giro d'Italia cycle race after collecting his second stage victory in three days yesterday. The Swiss finished alone after countering a move by Vladislav Bobrik, of Russia, in the final kilometre of the 192km fourth stage from Mondolfo as the leading group battled out the climb to the line.

As he sprinted home, Rominger looked around to see his chief adversary, Maurizio Fondriest, of Italy, racing in for second place, with another Italian, Francesco Casagrande, third.

Limping home

Athletics: Sandra Brown, whose husband, Richard, set a Land's End to John O'Groats record on Monday, was falling behind time yesterday in her attempt to beat the women's record, but remained confident she would achieve it (David Powell writes). After 11½ days, she had 111 of the 825 miles to go, needing to beat 13 days 17hr 42min.

Blistering has slowed her down. The Browns left Land's End together, Richard arriving in John O'Groats after 10 days 2hr 25min, 13 hours inside the six-year-old record.

Award for Betts

Rugby league: Denis Betts, the Great Britain second-row forward, who leaves Wigan after the Premiership final against Leeds on Sunday for a five-year contract with Auckland Warriors, was last night named *Stones Bitter Man of Steel*, the game's highest individual accolade.

Davey fifth

Yachting: Robin Davey, the British solo yachtsman, completed his second circumnavigation yesterday after braving a tornado, waterspouts and lightning a mile from the finish of the BOC challenge off Charleston, South Carolina. His 40ft yacht, *Cornwall*, completed the 27,000-mile challenge in 197 days, earning him fifth place in Class II.

Rich reward

Real tennis: The world champion, Robert Fahey, won the Laurent-Perrier Masters championship with a straight-sets win over Chris Bray, the British professional, at Queen's Club yesterday. Fahey, the Hobart professional, was at his sharpest. After taking the first set 6-4, the Australian raised his game to win the richest event of the season 6-4, 6-3, 6-1.

Becker accused

Tennis: Thomas Muster has called on the ATP to take action against Boris Becker over comments he made that could have been interpreted as suggesting the Austrian took drugs. Becker made the remarks after his final defeat by Muster at the Monte Carlo Open on April 30.

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Third Man

CRICKET AT THE CUTTING EDGE

Overseas player Villain? Hero?

3rd XI skippers? They're no bloody good!

ON DUTY WITH THE BARNEY ARMY

Sampras's rehearsal ends abruptly

هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Take your partners, for granted or worse

That essential marital word "sorry" was definitely bouncing around in the airwaves last night, but I began to feel I was the only person aware of it. In Johnnie Walker's hour-long interview I survived - like Turner (Channel 4), the unattractive musician had his chance to apologise to Tina, but instead described how he'd driven her to hospital after a suicide attempt and yelled at her, "Don't put me through these hospital bills, baby, why don't you jump under a truck and do the thing properly?" Cute, or what? Interestingly, like rejected his big-headed image, but offered only worse things in its place. "Do you blame Tina for leaving?" asked Walker (meaning, of course, that nobody would), like thought about it. "The way it was done, yeah," he said, "but I don't hold it against her."

Paula Milne's excellent *The Politician's Wife* (Channel 4) was built on the same gender earthquake zone, and was one of the most interesting scripts on television in an age. The premise was simple: a good one why do those dumped on wives of adulterous politicians dress up for photo-calls and portray themselves as "solid", when their natural reaction must be to crawl away and die, or pull out a carving knife? But the drama was, for once, a great deal more than the premise. Last night's first episode was constructed not around the obvious confrontation of scenes, but around hurtful gaps like chess, not least of which was Trevor Eve, sporting about regret when he should have said sorry.

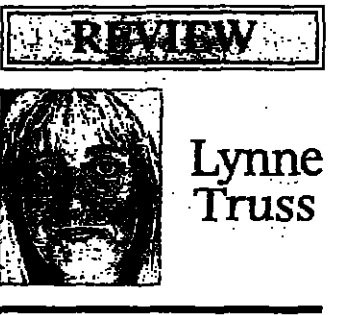
Juliet Stevenson's sufferings were akin to those of Anne Elliot in *Persuasion*. It wasn't that her feelings were deliberately hurt: in the hubbub of a scandal red-alert operation, her feelings were just monstrously overlooked. "We're all counting on you to be a team player in this, Flora," said her father, Frederick Treves - the equivalent of a pat on the head. In her own home, she knocked on closed doors with a decanter of whisky.

Her husband's confession took the outrageous form of "Don't break up the marriage, Flora, think of the children!" which sounded depressingly authentic. To make things up to her, he raped her. In the night, she crept downstairs and sat with her father by the fire. "I can't believe he'd be such a bloody fool," he said. But just as she got her hopes up, she realised he was talking about the jeopardised career.

It is Trevor Eve's resemblance to Michael Douglas that keeps landing him these sex-addicted roles? Is it his big nose? Either way, he is clearly much too good-looking to be a Cabinet minister; just as Juliet Stevenson isn't really

posh enough to be his wife. These are the allowances you have to make in drama, of course, but when you think how hideous the real-life adulterers often are, it would undoubtedly lend an extra level of horror and outrage if the husband had floppy hair, gap-teeth, and flared hipsters. Perhaps they think the viewing public is not ready for this. They may be right. Meanwhile, *The Politician's*

Wife left us at the point when Flora might start getting mad, or getting even, which will come as a great relief. The foxy Sir Donald (Ian Bannen on great form) told Flora that power is often invisible: that she held her husband's future in the palm of her hand. "Only a fool would throw away the power he's given," he growled Scottishly (he's not a fool, he does). Unaccustomed to any such power, she yielded it at once. Like a good girl, the alternative being unthinkable. Luckily, she has another two episodes to change her mind.



Lynne Truss

REVIEW

Decision time for Doug Tilbury (BBC2, 9.30pm)

Ann is an appealing two-year-old with Shirley Temple curls who was abused by her parents and taken into care. Two couples, unable to have children of their own, desperately try to adopt her and both seem well suited. The decision falls to Doug Tilbury, although his preying shoulder-length hair suggests a much more sinister side. He is a social worker with the London Borough of Hackney. The dramatic sequence of Chris Orley's documentary shows Tilbury agonising for what seems like eternity over which couple he should choose. Meanwhile his colleagues have another tricky case. Two black children, six and four, are about to be adopted. But will their new mother, a 40-year-old with a daughter and a granddaughter, have the energy to cope?

Modern Times: Playing God

The comedy actor Robert Llewellyn hosts a six-part series on how to get the best out of your home videos. The tone is jocular, as might be expected from the man who plays the robot in *Red Dwarf*, and sometimes the jokes threaten to take over. But there is much practical good sense as well, even if beginners may find sections on the technicalities of video editing and 360-degree tracking shots a little too much to take. Perhaps the best idea is to video the programme and play it back step by step, allowing time to draw breath. Among tonight's ingredients are advice to a family at the seaside on living up their holiday videos, a guide to camcorder add-ons and a feature on an amateur newsreader who sells his footage on television.

1. Camcorder Channel 4, 8.30pm

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Film Challenge: Death By Bass

In a relentless torrent of images, much influenced by pop video techniques, 21-year-old film-maker Marsha Patel evokes the obsession with in-car entertainment. The aim, it seems, is to be louder than anybody else. One enthusiast boasts of reaching a decibel level only just below 150. If that means nothing, Concordie on take at 30 metres produces only 126 decibels. The side-effects can be alarming. There are stories of blood coming out of ears and of eyeballs wobbling in their sockets. One car stereo became grounds for divorce. But the buzz is irresistible. "To me," says another ear-basher, "it represents anger, aggression, being part of the street." Many of us can only be thankful that his street is not ours.

Timewatch At War: Forgotten Heroes

The *Cruel Sea* gave a taste of it but Tom Roberts's deservedly repeated documentary offers the real and unvarnished story of the men who sailed the convoys during the Second World War. They are forgotten heroes indeed. Even after half a century they feel bitter and betrayed. When you hear, from the mouths of survivors, what they went through, you can understand why. The memories of the convoy are not without humour. But there is no disguising the horror of the sudden torpedo explosion, of the rush to reach the lifeboats and of being left to drift in freezing seas. The death rate among British merchant seamen during the war was one in four.

CARLTON

- 6.00am GMTV (4472678)
- 9.25 *Win, Lose or Draw* (8326104) 9.55 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (1151359)
- 10.00 *The Time... the Place* with John Stapleton (s) (531014)
- 10.35 *This Morning* (88874456) 12.00pm *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (1926030)
- 12.30 *News* (Teletext) and weather (7304388)
- 12.55 *Home and Away* (Teletext) (7312307) 1.25 *Coronation Street* (r) (Teletext) (1601354) 1.55 *A Country Practice* (s) (9550119)
- 2.20 *Wild about Essex* with Tony Robinson (s) (20178291) 2.50 *So Long, M25*. Includes reports from Thailand, Corfu, the West Country, Blackpool and Heathrow (s) (2339949)
- 3.20 *ITN News* headlines (Teletext) (8474843) 3.25 *London Today* (Teletext) and weather (9624384)
- 3.30 *Alphabet Castle* (r) (s) (5954630) 3.40 *Wizards* (r) (s) (6088807) 3.50 *The Adventures of Grady Greengrass* (5957746) 4.05 *Warner Brothers Cartoons* (2630562) 4.25 *Tales from the Cryptkeeper* (Teletext) (s) (2616392) 4.50 *Brill* (Teletext) (s) (916456)
- 5.10 *After 5* with Caron Keating (Teletext) (1498475)
- 5.40 *News* (Teletext) and weather (835852)
- 5.55 *You Show. Viewers' opinions* (551920)
- 6.00 *Home and Away* (r) (Teletext) (185)
- 6.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) (765)
- 7.00 *Wish You Were Here...* Includes reports from the Orans, Switzerland and Thailand. (Teletext) (s) (7456)
- 7.30 *Coronation Street* (Teletext) (949)

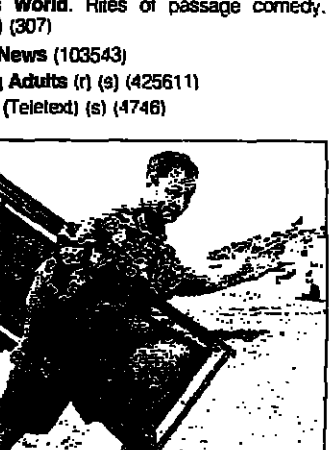


Kevin Costner and Gaby Hoffman (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *FILM: Field of Dreams* (1989) starring Kevin Costner. A farmer builds a baseball pitch on his cornfields in the hope of bringing legendary stars back to life. Directed by Phil Alden Robinson (3727)
- 10.00 *News at Ten* (Teletext) and weather (88369)
- 10.30 *London Tonight* (Teletext) and weather (567123)
- 10.40 *Carlton Sport*. Highlights of the second leg of the Enderleigh League semi-final play-off matches (139392)
- 11.40 *The Rugby Warriors: South Africa*. In the last programme of the series charting the run-up to the Rugby World Cup, Alan Hignall profiles the last of the campaign, South Africa (s) (955624)
- 12.10am *Cowboys in Skirts - The Making of Rob Roy*. A look behind the scenes at the making of the film starring Liam Neeson (5371012)
- 12.40 *Curtis*. Callie's Biddy's Moroccan Potato (r) (7373050)
- 12.50 *The Little Picture Show* (3090186)
- 1.50 *The Album Show* (s) (9406470)
- 2.50 *Hollywood Report* (s) (971876)
- 3.15 *America's Top Ten* (r) (s) (8791833)
- 3.40 *On the Live Side* (r) (s) (6128079)
- 4.00 *Sport AM* (r) (3206708)
- 4.55 *The Time... the Place* (r) (s) (1533437)
- 5.30 *ITN Morning News* (18012). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 *Spiff and Hercules* (7233123)
- 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (43545)
- 9.00 *You Bet Your Life* (r) (s) (96746)
- 9.30 *Schools*. Technology for Today (7866340) 10.02 Stage Two Science (1280497) 10.18 *The Jacobites* (6030794) 10.39 *The Arts Connection* (5818129) 11.00 *Schools at Work* (5956678) 11.05 *Encyclopedia Galactica* (5938071) 11.15 *Visual World* (7028303) 11.20 *Film Video Showcase* (1689497) 11.40 *Inch Scientists and Inventors* (3265524)
- 12.00 *House to House*. Political magazine (769821)
- 12.30 *Sesame Street* with guest Whoopi Goldberg (r) (52543) 1.30 *The Herbs* followed by Dig, Dog and Daisy (r) (22659)
- 2.00 *Profiles of Nature*. Wildlife film-maker Bristol Foster travelled to a remote site to capture the red-throated loon in its natural habitat (r) (20172017)
- 2.25 *Channel 4 Racing*. From York Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 (Horsemen's Daily States) and 4.10 races (s) (1992533). Followed by *Consenting Adults*. A series of shorts for Adult Learning Week (s)
- 4.30 *Fifteen to One*. (Teletext) (s) (562)
- 5.00 *Ricki Lake*. The guests are mothers with young daughters who dress as adults to attract men (Teletext) (s) (6294765)
- 5.45 *Terrytoons* featuring Deputy Dawg (635475)
- 6.00 *All American Girl*. Comedy series (Teletext) (s) (727)
- 6.30 *Boy Meets World*. Rites of passage comedy. (Teletext) (s) (307)
- 7.00 *Channel 4 News* (103543)
- 7.55 *Consenting Adults* (r) (s) (425611)
- 8.00 *Brookside*. (Teletext) (s) (4746)



Video advice from Robert Llewellyn (8.30pm)

- 8.30 *1. Camcorder*. Beach. (Teletext) (s) (3253)
- 9.00 *Dispatches*. A look at the behind-the-scenes tactics used by political lobbyists and commercial companies. (Teletext) (626748)
- 9.45 *1. Camcorder*. By Bass. (Teletext) (981630)
- 10.00 *ER*. American hospital drama series (Teletext) (s) (495104)
- 10.55 *The Best of the Tube*. Jools Holland and Paula Yates introduce REM, Special A&A and Tropicana (701562)
- 11.30 *Cheers* (r). (Teletext) (38123)
- 12.00 *LA Law*. American courtroom drama (s) (73586). Followed by *Consenting Adults* (Teletext) (s)
- 1.00 *Mojo* featuring soul singer James Brown (r) (s) (65465)
- 1.30 *Anyway, Face Facts, Toxic and Baggage*. Four animations (31586)
- 2.00 *FILM: Slave Ship* (1937, b/w) starring Warner Baxter and Elizabeth Arden. A drama about a slave ship captain whose efforts to give up his trade after his marriage are thwarted when his crew mutiny. Tay Garnett directs (535302). Ends 3.35

BBC1

- 6.00 *Business Breakfast* (83456)
- 7.00 *BBC Breakfast News* (10732949)
- 9.05 *Killy*. Robert Killy gives a studio discussion on a topical subject (s) (100475)
- 10.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7904862) 10.05 *EastEnders - The Early Days* (r). (Ceefax) (1156814)
- 10.35 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*. Weekday magazine series (4850878)
- 12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9621746) 12.05 *Pebble M&M* (s) (5702543) 12.50 *Regional News* and weather (5146098)
- 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (53920) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (9650164)
- 1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly presents another round of the general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (3064720) 2.15 *Alas Smith and Jones*. Light-hearted western adventure starring Patsy Stone and Ben Murphy (s) (9215123) 3.05 *Gardens of the World*. Audrey Hepburn visits the Keukenhof in Holland and then Chiesi Manor in England (r) (6080814)
- 3.30 *Cartoon* (5950814) 3.45 *The Animals of Farthing Wood* (r). (Ceefax) (8268678) 4.10 *The Chipmunks* (r) (2633659) 4.35 *Glad Rags*. A new series about a little girl who likes to dress up. (Ceefax) (763727)
- 5.00 *Newsround*. (Ceefax) (8234524) 5.10 *Blue Peter*. (Ceefax) (s) (5355552)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceefax) (s) (388920)
- 6.00 *Six O'Clock News* (Ceefax) and weather (807)
- 6.30 *Regional News* magazines (368). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
- 7.00 *This Is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs his last surprise of the series. (Ceefax) (s) (2388)
- 7.30 *Ruby Crackles*. Ruby Wax celebrates the opening of the Cannes Film Festival (s) (253)
- 8.00 *The Gollum Hall of Fame*. The second and final part of the series of highlights from the "Gollum" segment of his *House Party* show (s) (802530)
- 8.50 *Points of View* (s) (757017)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1253)

VARIOUS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 9.55am-10.00am Anglia News (1511389) 12.00pm-12.30pm Anglia News (910530) 12.55pm *Coronation Street* (1201720) 1.25pm-1.55pm *Home and Away* (10113543) 2.00pm *Gardening Time* (20176291) 2.55pm-3.20pm *Blockbusters* (233849) 3.25pm-3.50pm *Anglia News* and weather (9623494) 4.00pm *Coronation Street* (1450338) 5.15pm-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (5349831) 6.25pm-7.00pm *Anglia News* and weather (9623494) 7.10pm-7.30pm *Anglia News* (567123) 7.40pm *Lawry* (5682115) 12.35pm *Alas Smith and Jones* (5682115) 12.55pm *Home and Away* (10113543) 2.00pm *Gardening Time* (20176291) 2.55pm-3.20pm *Blockbusters* (233849) 3.25pm-3.50pm *Anglia News* and weather (9623494) 4.00pm *Coronation Street* (1450338) 5.15pm-5.40pm *Shortland Street* (5349831) 6.25pm-7.00pm *Anglia News* and weather (9623494) 7.10pm-7.30pm *Anglia News* (567123) 7.40pm *Lawry* (5682115) 12.35pm *Alas Smith and Jones* (5682115) 12.55pm *Home and Away* (10113543) 2.00pm *Gardening Time* (20176291) 2.55pm-3.20pm 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FISHING 41

WHY FLY FISHERMEN
MUST NOT RISE
TO A HARD SELL

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 17 1995

TENNIS 46

CHAMPION SAMPRAS
WEEKLY SURRENDERS
ITALIAN OPEN TITLE

End of amateurism imminent

Players poised to cash in on World Cup

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S rugby union players depart for the World Cup in South Africa this evening with ambitions to return with the Webb Ellis trophy but also witnessing the dawn of a new financial era that will give them equality with their counterparts in the southern hemisphere.

The walls of amateurism have been coming down rapidly since the inaugural World Cup of 1987, and may collapse altogether in August if the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) commits itself to an "open" international game. But details of the money available to players during the next five weeks are enough to suggest that old-style amateurism is finished, a situation confirmed by one of Scotland's leading administrators.

Indeed, the game's tortuous regulations have created a situation where players can take with both hands, one from commercial deals arranged by the national squad's representatives, the other from permitted reimbursement laid down by the IRFB for cases of hardship. The main beneficiary, apart from the players, will be long-suffering employers, who have been the unacknowledged sponsors of rugby for so long.

It is estimated that the regular members of the England World Cup squad can make £1,400 a week while they are in South Africa, thanks to a sponsorship agreement with Cellnet, the mobile telephone company, believed to be worth £120,000. But over and above the World Cup are existing agreements with Courage, the brewers, and Scrumpy Jack, the cider makers, who are also official supporters of the team.

Those players who appeared regularly for England last season should have earned around £10,000.

though details of team sponsorships remain confidential, and such earnings will be greatly boosted next season if negotiations towards a four-year team sponsorship bear fruit. The joint working party of players and Rugby Football Union (RFU) committee members had hoped to announce details of a long-term agreement before departure today, but the matter will be resolved later this summer.

Dudley Wood, the RFU secretary, said yesterday that a growing number of players were claiming the daily hardship allowance of £45 permitted by the IRFB to teams on tour. Aside from obvious cases such as that of Graham Dawe,

to ensure it was in line with IRFB regulations, though of course their payment for promotional work goes to them precisely because they are members of a successful rugby team, even if rugby chooses to hide behind the fiction that they are not paid for playing.

"It is my personal opinion that amateurism is dead," Freddie McLeod, one of Scotland's two IRFB representatives, said. "I think the word amateur should be taken out of the laws altogether. I think there will be radical changes at the time of our next meeting in August."

Scotland's players have already agreed an *ex gratia* payment of £3,000 per man from their own union as compensation for their involvement in the World Cup, on top of sums paid into the players' trust fund by sponsors over the last season and permitted allowances. It is estimated that each of their squad players will make around £10,000 from their involvement.

Were England to win the World Cup, the corporate world would be their oyster and they leave in good heart. "It's a better-balanced team than the one which reached the 1991 final," Brian Moore, the hooker, said. "If the bounce of the ball goes our way, I think we can do well. Eight years ago none of us knew where we were going but this time we are far more focused on what has to be done."

In South Africa yesterday Louis Luyt, president of the South African Rugby Football Union, denied reports in local newspapers that he had called for the directors of Rugby World Cup Ltd (RWC) to resign. There has been criticism of the price structure for match tickets for the tournament, which begins on May 25, and thousands have been returned from overseas because they have been attached to overpriced tourist packages. Any surplus tickets will become available to South Africa as the host union.



Radford, of Worcestershire, fails to hold a catch from Williams, the West Indian opening batsman, off his own bowling yesterday. Report, page 45

Whittingdale to drop England deal

By IVO TENNANT

WHITTINGDALE, the City of London company that has put £3 million into English cricket since 1990, will not be continuing with its sponsorship after the end of this season. The firm is particularly concerned about what it sees as poor management of England's side and resistance to new ideas and change.

Patrick Whittingdale, who runs the company of fund managers, which is one of England's biggest sponsors, has been especially concerned at criticism of players through the media. "I feel this is very bad man-management and simply does not get the best out of them," Mike Atherton

had a rotten job taking over the captaincy from Graham Gooch and was treated like a child by long-range criticism during the winter. The treatment of Angus Fraser, who works for me when he is not playing cricket, has not been acceptable, either. I cannot continue to work with anybody who is going to deal with players in this way.

"While the management persist like this, there is no way they will be getting my money. I am frustrated because England have not been getting good results. If you keep failing, you have to ask yourself why. English cricket, like so much of this country, is too insular. Australia and South Africa develop much faster."

"I have put my views to the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), but unfortunately they are scared of change. I think we have to look at the Australian approach and to reduce the amount of cricket we play. There is too much of it and too

Lever's quest 44
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West Indies damper 45

much time spent on aeroplanes. A lot more work could be done analysing the opposition on video. Diers are important. The Micky Stewart-Gooch regime was criticised for being too keen on fitness, but since their time nothing

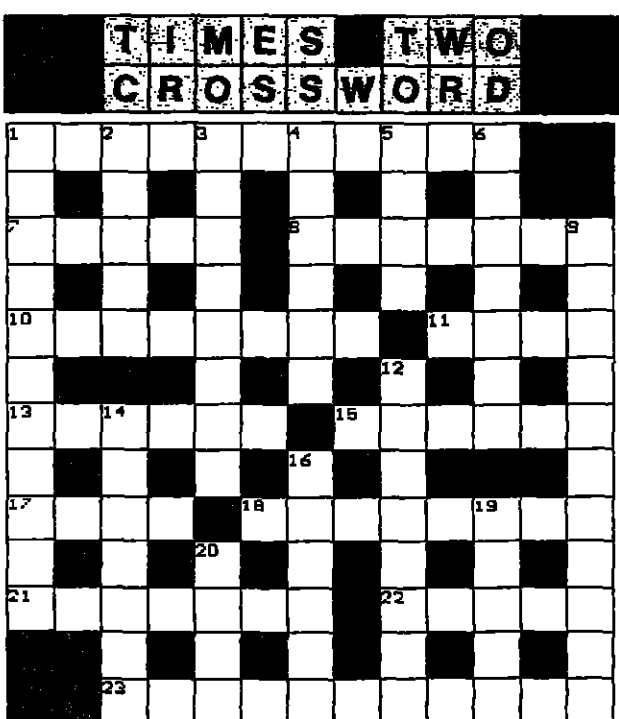
has been developed further," Whittingdale said.

The TCCB wanted him to extend his contract and expressed regret that he would not be doing so. "Whittingdale have been critical from time to time of the way the England side is run, but I don't want to get into an argy-bargy with them," Tim Lamb, cricket secretary of the TCCB, said. "Unfortunately, we have been unable to agree a mutually acceptable basis for a renewal. But there is no doubt that England sides have derived significant benefit from their sponsorship," Lamb added that many of the activities carried out under the Whittingdale plan, such as coaching and training sessions in the winter, would be

continued. "This is now an indispensable part of the England set-up, but it is too easy to say whether we will be seeking a new sponsor," he said.

Whittingdale said that he knew of "no circumstances" in which he was likely to renew his sponsorship for the time being. "We are now a better-known firm and we have had some commercial benefits, but it is not easy to make this kind of sponsorship work."

A number of clients have put pressure on us not to continue — they think I have given too much time to cricket and not enough to their portfolios, which is understandable. I think the winter training sessions will continue because the TCCB have lots of money."



No 472

ACROSS

- 1 Be profoundly affected (by) (4,2,5)
- 7 A grub (5)
- 8 Absolutely! (3,4)
- 10 Donator: betray (4,4)
- 11 Coconut fibre (4)
- 13 Property (of firm, deceased's estate) (6)
- 15 Short-term lodging-house (6)
- 17 Impair (4)
- 18 Bits thrown over happy couple (8)
- 21 Brought to ruin, defeat (4,3)
- 22 African state, capital Tripoli (5)
- 23 Clay pottery (11)

DOWN

- 1 Clearly indicated in advance (11)
- 2 Stalin henchman: renamed Maryinsky baller (5)
- 3 Boston riot; Haunter meal (3,5)
- 4 Aircraft shed (6)
- 5 High male voice (4)
- 6 Unfreeze (4,3)
- 9 It doesn't matter to me (3,3,1,4)
- 12 Banner with streamers (8)
- 14 Unusual (7)
- 16 — Estate, the press (6)
- 19 Shrike (5)
- 20 A long distance (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 471
ACROSS: 4 Oasis 7 Aperitif 8 Rick 9 Construe
10 Doings 13 Raffle 14 Poison 15 Wealth 18 Overshoe 19 Tail 20 Revision 21 Lay-by
DOWN: 1 Casino 2 Beckon 3 Discus 4 Off-stage
5 Scornful 6 Seede 11 In the way 12 Glossary 14 Propel 15 Weevil 16 Attain 17 Talent

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Manchester City dismiss Horton

By PETER BALL

AFTER 21 months, filled mostly with speculation about his future, Manchester City finally put Brian Horton out of his uncertainty yesterday. Horton, 46, became the twelfth FA Carling Premiership manager to lose his job this season when he was dismissed at lunchtime.

"There should be something to stop clubs wheeling and dealing in managers," Don Mackay, Kenny Dalglish's predecessor at Blackburn Rovers, told the League Managers' Association annual general meeting yesterday. "We should start to get contracts

caught most of Manchester on the hop. Yesterday morning, Colin Barlow, the managing director, insisted that the stories in that morning's press — that Horton's time had come — were simply the latest round of speculation. By lunchtime, with Francis Lee, the chairman, still apparently unavailable to attend the press conference, a bald statement confirmed that the reports were indeed correct.

"We have brought the speculation to a close — that is the way we are looking at it," Barlow said. "The decision was taken today."

If the handling of Horton's dismissal was, in the best

traditions of City, cack-handed, the change was probably inevitable. From the start, when he was appointed by John Maddock, briefly Barlow's predecessor as managing director in the dog days of Peter Swales's regime as chairman, Horton's position looked ill-starred.

He arrived as "Brian Who?" to replace Peter Reid only four matches into the season, and, although his honesty and obvious commitment won him some measure of acceptance and ensured he retained his position when Lee replaced Swales on a wave of popular support, results remained inconsistent.

The team narrowly avoided relegation in his first season, and although it had some encouraging moments this campaign, it was still too close to the danger zone for comfort.

Horton's responsibility for that is a matter for debate. The sight of Manchester United doing the double in his first season, and enjoying further success this, put unreasonable pressure on Horton, who never had the financial clout to compete with Alex Ferguson. Lee's arrival failing to provide the investment the supporters had hoped for.

Injuries were a serious problem, but Horton's tactics also raised eyebrows. An excess of attacking players and a consequent lack of balance were queried, and his apparent misjudgment of character, such that he alienated some of the strongest characters and best professionals in the club, did not help his cause.

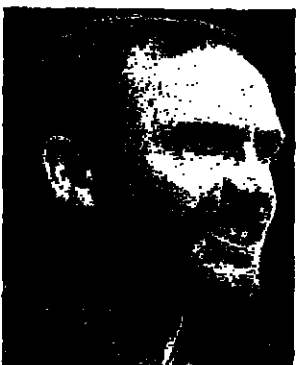
A 5-0 thrashing by United in the derby, a record win for the red half of Manchester to savour, led to calls for his dismissal by disgruntled supporters, and although Horton survived then, it was only delaying the inevitable as they fell out of both cups and struggled on in the Premiership.

The outstanding victory at Blackburn in April, which opened up the championship race, was less a sign of hope than of wasted opportunities.

Bruce Rioch, of Bolton Wanderers, Mick McCarthy, of Millwall, and Martin O'Neill, of Wycombe Wanderers, have all been linked with the job in the past. However, City are to advertise the position.

"I am not going to comment on whether the board has somebody in mind," Barlow said.

Bonus for Royle, page 42
Bull's final goal, page 42



Horton: rumours confirmed

registered. If things don't go right, then at least managers will be seen to be compensated properly."

The figures, with Alex Ferguson the longest-serving Premiership manager, one of only six with three years or more at their club, are perhaps more shocking than this individual case indicates.

Horton's tenure of one of the more vulnerable positions in the Premiership had been the subject of constant rumour and speculation almost from the day he was appointed. However, if the decision was unsurprising, the timing

1994-95 PREMIERSHIP COMINGS AND GOINGS

Final position	Club	Manager at start of season	Manager now
1	Blackburn	Kenny Dalglish	Kenny Dalglish
2	Manchester Utd	Alex Ferguson	Alex Ferguson
3	Nottingham Forest	Frank Clark	Frank Clark
4	Liverpool	Roy Evans	Roy Evans
5	Leeds	Howard Wilkinson	Howard Wilkinson
6	Newcastle	Kevin Keegan	Kevin Keegan
7	Tottenham	George Burley	George Burley
8	QPR	Gerry Francis	Gerry Francis
9	Wimbledon	Joe Kinnear	Joe Kinnear
10	Southampton	Alan Ball	Alan Ball
11	Chelsea	Glenn Hoddle	Glenn Hoddle
12	Arsenal	Stewart Houston	Stewart Houston
13	Sheffield Wed	Trevor Francis	Trevor Francis
14	West Ham	Billy Bonds	Harry Redknapp
15	Everton	Phil Walker	Phil Walker
16	Coventry	Phil Neal	Phil Neal
17	Manchester	Brian Horton	Brian Horton
18	Aston Villa	Ron Atkinson	Ron Atkinson
19	Crystal Palace	Alan Smith	Alan Smith
20	Norwich	John Deehan	John Deehan
21	Leicester	Brian Little	Brian Little
22	Ipswich	John Lyall	John Lyall

LONGEST SERVING MANAGERS: Ferguson (appointed Nov 1986); Wilkinson (Oct 1988); Trevor Francis (June 1991); Dalglish (Oct 1991); Kinnear (Jan 1992); Keegan (Feb 1992).

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